**OPINION 6** 

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer

**WORLD 8** 

BIDEN, PUTIN SIGNAL BIGGER

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# Ukraine crisis escalates; Nawab Malik arrested sanctions regime begins

UK rapped for mild sanctions; Ukraine allows citizens to use arms in defence

**AP** ■ BRUSSELS/LONDON/KYIV

European Union sanctions against Russia have come into effect. They are the first steps in a planned series of retaliatory measures devised to be cranked up if Russian President Vladimir Putin orders an attack or pushes his troops deeper into Ukraine.

The sanctions that took effect on Wednesday targeted senior Russian Government officials, several companies and hundreds of lawmakers who voted in favour of recognising the independence of separatist parts of Ukraine.

The sanctions are mostly a freeze on the assets of those listed and a ban on them travelling in the 27-nation EU. The measures come on top of a slew of economic and other sanctions slapped on Russia since it annexed Ukraine's Crimean

Peninsula in 2014. Those sanctions already targeted Russia's financial, energy and defence sectors, as well as goods that can be used for both civilian and military pur-

poses. However, Britain promised to hit Russia with "powerful" sanctions over its military confrontation with Ukraine. But the slim sheaf of measures announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson has disappoint-

ed allies and critics alike.

The UK has slapped asset freezes and travel bans on three wealthy Russians and sanctioned five Russian banks in response to President Vladimir Putin's decision to recognise two breakaway regions of eastern Ukraine. Johnson says there will be more to come if there is a "fullscale" Russian invasion. But many say the current measures are too little, and further sanctions will come too late.

Russia began evacuating its embassy in Kyiv, and Ukraine urged its citizens to leave Russia on Wednesday as the region braced for further confrontation after President Vladimir Putin received authoridation to use military force outside his country and the West responded with sanctions.

Ukraine's parliament has also voted to approve a draft law that gives permission to Ukrainians to carry firearms and act in self-defence.



Commuters wait for a local train at a subway station in Kviv. Ukraine, on Wednesday. Ukraine urged its citizens to leave Russia as Europe braced for further

### Russia hails India's balanced approach

PNS NEW DELHI

Underlining the long-standing and "time-tested" ties with India, Russia on Wednesday appreciated India's "independent position" on the Ukraine crisis and "balanced" approach to world affairs.

These remarks by Russian

Roman Babushkin here came against the backdrop of India enunciating its position in the emergency session of the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

The Russian diplomat said the Indian position was reflective of the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries.

Continued on Page 2

# for money laundering

NCP terms move misuse of power by Centre, ED

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a major development that sparked instant protests from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) which termed the move as "misuse of power" by the Centre, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Wednesday Maharashtra Minister for

Rename Gangubai,

The Supreme Court on Wednesday suggested the makers of the Bollywood movie Gangubai Kathiawadi to consider changing the name of the film in view of the pendency of several cases against the Alia Bhatt-starrer movie.

the Alia Bhatt-starrer movie. Produced by Sanjay Leela

Bhansali's Bhansali Production

Private Ltd, the film is sched-

uled for release this Friday. A bench of Justices Indira

Banerjee and J K Maheswari

suggested the name change to

the respondents which includ-

Continued on Page 2

ed the production house.

SC asks Bhansali

**NEW DELHI** ■ PNS

Minority Affairs and NCP

leader Nawab Malik for his alleged involvement in a money laundering case.

Malik, who is the second Maharashtra Minister after Anil Deshmukh (the then State Home Minister who was arrest

ed on November 2, 2021 in a money laundering case) to have come under its scanner within the last four months, was placed under formal arrest by the ED officials after eight-long hours of intense questioning in connection with the purchase of a huge plot of land at "a throwaway price" from two henchmen of Karachibased Dawood Ibrahim.

Malik was picked up from his house at 6 am by the ED officials and taken to their office for questioning

Continued on Page 2

NO CHANGE IN STATUS QUO ON LAC: MEA New Delhi: As stand-offs

persist at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last two years. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday India will not agree to any change in the status quo or attempt to unilaterally alter the LAC.

OMICRON IS A SILENT KILLER, SAYS CJI

New Delhi: On a request for a return to full physical hearings in the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Of India NV Ramana on Wednesday called Omicron a "silent killer" and said he was still suffering after catching the virus nearly a month ago

### 60% turnout in UP; BJP, SP claim they've crossed 200

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT

In the fourth phase of elections of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, a moderate 59.77 per cent turnout was recorded on Wednesday. During the 2017 UP Assembly polls, the voter turnout was 62.55 per cent in the fourth phase.

Soon after voting, Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma said, "After the fourth phase, the BJP will hit a double century and will march ahead to break its pre-

vious records.

The Samajwadi Party made similar claims. Polling was held in 59 con-

including capital Lucknow. Union Minister of State Home Ajay Mishra Teni cast his vote amid tight security at

stituencies in nine districts,

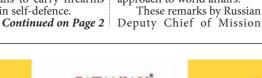
Banbirpur polling booth at Lakhimpur Kheri. UP's Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said till 5 pm 57.45 per cent voter turnout was recorded and the final figure of voting

was is being compiled. Continued on Page 2 Mayawati thanks Shah for recognising good performance of BSP

Lucknow: BSP leader Mayawati on Wednesday appreciated Union Minister Amit Shah for acknowledging that her party will get Dalit votes but added that Muslims and other communities are

also voting for the BSP.

Detailed report P2





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\* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

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CDSL: https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx

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# **HC seeks info on Campus** Front's role in hijab row

High Court, hearing the hijab case, on Wednesday sought to know from the State Government the role of the Campus Front of India (CFI).

On January one, six girl students of a college in Udupi attended a press conference held by the CFI in the coastal town protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into classrooms wearing hijab.

This was four days after they requested the principal permission to wear hijab in classes which was not allowed. Till then, students used to wear the headscarf to the campus, but entered the classroom after removing it, college principal Rudre Gowda had said.

"The institution did not have any rule on hijab-wearing since no one used to wear it to the classroom in the last 35 years. The students who came with the demand had the backing of outside forces," Gowda

Naganand, representing the Government PU College for Girls, its principal and a teacher, on Wednesday told the full bench, comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice J M Khazi and Justice Krishna S Dixit, that the hijab row was started by some students owing allegiance to CFI.

To this, the Chief Justice sought to know what the CFI stood for and what its role was.

The senior counsel said the organisation was coordinating and organising protests in the state. "It is also a voluntary organisation, which is spearheading and drumbeating in favour of students (demanding wearing of hijab in class-

Another lawyer said the CFI is a radical organisation, which is not recognised by the

Then Chief Justice Awasthi sought to know whether the state was aware of it, to which Naganand said the Intelligence

Then the CJ directed the state government through Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadgi to find out. When Navadgi said there is some information, CJ Awasthi wondered how all of a sudden this organisation's name has cropped up.

Naganand told the court that some teachers were threat-ened by CFI. "The teachers were afraid of lodging a complaint but now they have filed a complaint with the police," he said.When Justice Dixit asked when the teachers were threatened, Naganand said a couple of days ago.

Expressing his displeasure, Justice Dixit asked the AG that he should have informed the court. The AG replied saying that he was not aware of the incident.

Naganand also said the uniform-related regulation was in force in the girls college since 2004 and had been continuing

#### Gadkari to lay foundation stone of Delhi-Jaipur expressway projects

Gurugram: Union Minister for road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone of projects worth about ₹1,000 crore on the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway on March 8, according to a statement of the district administration.In these projects ₹23 crore will be spent to built Bilaspur Chowk flyover, Manesar elevated flyover for ₹81 crore and Bawal Chowk flyover for ₹23 crore. Apart from this, the flyover at Kapriwas Chowk in Rewari has also been included in this

Officials said a tender worth ₹459 crore for the repair of the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway and service lane is also involved in this project. Along with this, flyovers and underpasses to be built in the part of Rajasthan have also been included

According to the officials, after the completion of these projects, the traffic pressure on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway will be reduced and the traffic management will be

After the lay foundation event, Gadkari would also address the public meeting.

### Mayawati: Shah's 'greatness' he accepted BSP's relevance

**Lucknow:** Bahujan Samaj accepted the truth. But she Party leader Mayawati on Wednesday appreciated Union Minister Amit Shah for acknowledging that her party will get Dalit votes but added that Muslims and other communities are also voting for the BSP.

Shah had recently said in a television interview that Mayawati remained relevant in Uttar Pradesh, where the fourth round of polling for the Assembly took place on

Wednesday.
"The BSP has maintained its relevance. I believe it will get votes. I don't know how much of it will convert into seats but it will get votes," he had said.

The senior BJP leader's remark triggered some speculation over the possibility of a post-election tie-up between the two parties. In 1995, 1997 and 2002, Mayawati was sworn in as CM with BJP's support.

Commenting on the minister's remark, Mayawati said it was his "greatness" that he added that her BSP is getting votes of not only Dalits, but Muslims, Other Backward Classes and upper castes as

"When the results are declared on March 10, the BSP will form its government like it did in 2007 with full majority," Mayawati told reporters after casting her

Asked about Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's claim that his party is getting the Muslim voters' support, she said the ground reality cannot be more different and can be known by visiting villages.

"Members of religious minorities, the Muslims, have been unhappy with the Samajwadi Party's working style. They believe that even when they were with it for the last five years, they were sidelined to make space for others at the time of giving

tickets," the Dalit leader said. She also dismissed Yadav's claim of making forays into her core Jatav vote bank, calling the idea a distant dream and advised the SP leader to make sure that he gets the votes of his own caste

She termed the former chief minister Ambedkarvadi" Ambedkarite), saying he had changed the names of districts and schemes she had named after Dalit icons during her government.

'The Samajwadi Party is dreaming of forming the government and this dream will be shattered. You all know whenever SP has been in power, Dalits, backwards, the poor and Brahmins have been harassed the most," she "People here have seen how

the 'goonda' and mafia elements called the shots and harassment was at its peak whenever the SP was in power," she said. the SP government the state also witnessed riots, she said, citing the Muzaffarnagar vio-

#### Special CBI court sentences ex-BOI manager to RI for defrauding bank

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A Special CBI court here on Wednesday sentenced former Manager of Bank of India, Jacob Circle Branch, Mumbai, and three private persons to rigorous imprisonment for periods ranging from three to five years and imposed varied amounts of fines on them for allegedly defrauding the bank to the tune of Rs 98.28 lakh.

While Abid Ali Gulam

Vohra, then Manager, Bank of India, Jacob Circle Branch, Mumbai was sentenced to four years Rigorous Imprisonment with fine of Rs. 3.5 lakh, one Ashok Leharchand Bhansali (private person) was handed out five years of RI with fine of Rs. 3.35 crore. Two other private persons -- Sadiq Sayyad Mir Patel and Rizwan Sayyad Sadiq Patel – were sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment each and imposed fines of Rs.32.5 lakh and Rs.1.5 lakh respectively in the bank fraud case.

The CBI had registered a case on 30.05.1998 against four accused including Manager, Bank of India, Jacob Circle Branch, Mumbai; private persons and others on complaint from Bank of India on the allegations of causing loss to the tune of Rs. 98.28 lakh (approx.) to Bank. The CBI's contention was that the accused opened several accounts in the bank. Cheques were deposited in these accounts and the same were sent in clearing. In the normal course, the customer was permitted to draw the amount only after cheques so presented were cleared. But in the instant case, the branch was permitted drawing against uncleared effects immediately and thereafter the instruments

were sent in clearing.

According to the CBi,
Cheques deposited in these accounts were purely of accommodative nature as invariably all these cheques were returned unpaid by the drawee bank. The branch was expected to debit the account when the cheques were returned. To make provisions for posting of returned cheques, said customers deposited further cheques which again were sent in clearing.

## Russia hails India's balanced.

The diplomat added India has been playing a vital role as a responsible global power and it takes an "independent and bal-

anced" approach to global affairs. "We welcome the independent position of India which it took twice at the UN Security Council," he said at an

online media briefing. "The Indian activities at the UN Security Council are fully reflecting the merit of our special and privileged strategic partnership," he added.

Amid escalating tension between Moscow and the West after Russian President Vladimir Putin recognised two breakaway Ukrainian regions as independent States, India at the meeting of the UN Security Council called for "restraint on all sides". It stressed that the immediate priority is "de-escalation of tensions" taking into account the legitimate security interests of all countries and aimed towards securing longterm peace and stability in the

"Russian India partnership is based on a strong and solid foundation. It is based on mutual trust," Babushkin said.

"Our cooperation does not represent any threat to anyone and at the same time we keep moving shoulder-to-shoulder to establish a just and equal multi-polar world," he added,

Train No. & Name

hoping that the intensity of India-Russia ties will continue at the same level.

He also claimed the Western powers are trying to destabilise the region and said sanctions against Russia would result in instability to the global economy as it will lead to an atmosphere of distrust.

Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi, meanwhile, said India believes in rule-based order and all stakeholders must communicate with each other. 'India believes in rule-

based order. We pray for harmony and peace all around. We seek all the stakeholders must communicate with each other," she told a news agency here. The Government was

doing its best regarding the evacuation of its citizens including students from Ukraine as in the past like "Be it the Covid-19 situation, emergency in Libya or other exigencies. India stands by its people. We urge the citizens to Embassy," she said.

There are more than 20,000 Indian students studying in various universities in Úkraine and the Indian Embassy on Tuesday asked them to leave the country as soon as possible. They were also informed the Embassy was arranging special

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15621 Kamakhya Jn.-Anand Vihar Terminal Express

15622 Anand Vihar Terminal-Kamakhya Jn. Express

19616 Kamakhya Jn.-Udaipur Express

19615 Udaipur-Kamakhya Jn. Express

14619 Agartala-Firozpur Cantt. Express

14620 Firozpur Cantt.-Agartala Express

19305 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar-Kamakhya Express

19306 Kamakhya-Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express

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14038 New Delhi-Silchar Express

14037 Silchar-New Delhi Express

22449 Guwahati-New Delhi Express

Azadi <sub>Ka</sub>

### 60% turnout in **UP; BJP, SP claim** they've crossed...

The highest turnout of 62.42 per cent was recorded in Lakhimpur while the turnout till 5 pm at Lucknow was 54.98 The districts which voted

on Wednesday are Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Hardoi, Unnao, Lucknow, Rae Bareli, Banda, and Fatehpur and fate of 624 candidates, including several Cabinet Ministers, as well as Unnao rape victim's mother Asha Singh will be sealed in this round of polling.
As many as 800 companies

of paramilitary forces and over 60,000 policemen were deployed for security at 13,813 polling stations and 24,580 polling booths in 208 police station areas.

Defence Minister and BIP leader Rajnath Singh cast his vote at a polling booth in Lucknow. After casting his vote he said, "The BJP will not only repeat the history but it is also an undeniable possibility that our number of seats will increase."

Trivedi MP casts his vote at the Sherwood Academy polling booth in Lucknow.

Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a multi-cornered contest with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Samajwadi Party (SP)-Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) alliance, and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Congress as

Date (from the Originating Station)

27.02.2022

24.02.2022

25.02.2022

24.02.2022

28.02.2022

24.02.2022

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28.02.2022

24.02.2022

27.02.2022

26.02.2022

principal contenders.

Uttar Pradesh Law Minister Brajesh Pathak, who is facing Samajwadi Party candidate and two-time Corporator Surendra Singh Gandhi in the Lucknow Cantonment seat, are among the prominent contender in

In the high-profile Raebareli Sadar -- part of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's parliamentary seat -- sitting party MLA Aditi Singh (BJP) is facing Congress's Manish Aditi is the daughter of the

constituency's five-time MLA, the late Akhilesh Singh. The Samajwadi Party has fielded RP

Voting was disrupted for two hours Kadipur Sani area of Lakhimpur Kheri at booth number 109 of Kadipur Sani after adhesive was thrown at the Electronic Voting Machine

The voting resumed after the EVM was replaced.

The police have registered an FIR against the unidentified their anger over the interruption in the voting process. According to the voters, they waited for casting their vote for two hours due to the interruption. Voting for the remaining three phases of the sevenphase UP elections will take place on February 27, March 3,

**Ukraine** 

crisis...

From Page 1

Ukraine's National Security

and Defence Council on

Wednesday said à state of

emergency will be introduced

across all parts of the country

except Donetsk and Luhansk.

in-person emergency summit

on Thursday evening in

Brussels to discuss the tensions

between Russia and Ukraine.

president Charles Michel said

in his invitation letter to the 27

leaders that the "use of force

and coercion to change borders

has no place in the 21st centu-

Scholz had already planned to

hold a 90-minute virtual meet-

ing of Group of Seven leaders

on Thursday afternoon. That

meeting was announced last

states and government for the

unity shown by the bloc in

recent days to ensure the adop-

tion of sanctions against Russia

and deter its suspected plans to

invade Ukraine.

Michel praised the heads of

week.

German Chancellor Olaf

European leaders plan an

European Union Council

### **Covid-19 cases witness** marginal spike in Maha

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The daily Covid-19 infections in Maharashtra rose marginally from 1080 on Tuesday to 1151 on Wednesday, even as the daily cases in Mumbai went up from 135 to 168.With 1151 fresh infections recorded on Monday, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the state rose from 78,60,317 to 78,61,468

With 23 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths registered in the state since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the state in March 2020 went up from 1,43,633 to 1,43,656.

With the fresh 168 cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,55,792 to 10,55,960. While the recovery rate stood static at 98 per cent, the overall growth rate of Copvid-19 cases in the metropolis for a period from

February 16 and 22 remained static at 0.02 per cent.

As 2,594Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 76,99,623 to 77,02,217. The recovery rate in the state rose from 97.96 per cent to 97.97 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 13,070 to 11,604. The fatality rate in the state stood

static at 1.82 per cent. The active cases in Pune dropped from 4,169 to 3874. The active cases in Mumbai dropped from 1314 to 1228, while the number of active cases in the neighbouring Thane dropped from 914 to 858. The active cases in Ahmednagar dropped from 1,132 to 976, while the number

of active cases in Nagpur came down from 1,192 to 1008. Of the 7,74,84,141 samples

sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 78,61,468 have tested positive (10.15 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday. Currently, 1,64,050 people are in home quarantine while 922 people are in institutional quarantine. Meanwhile, no fresh

Omicron case was recorded in Maharashtra on Wednesday, resulting in the total number of the new Covid-19 variant cases remaining at 4,509. Of these cases, 4,345 patients have been discharged after they tested negative in the RT-PCR tests. Till Friday evening, 8904

samples had been sent for genome sequencing, out of which, results of 8,044 patients have been received, while the results of 860 samples are

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Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)

same. Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate) Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049 E-mail Address : alolegals@gmail.com

# THE PIONEER (

**CHANGE OF NAME** 

Bala Murugan S/O Arjunan R/O Budhnagar Inderpuri New Delhi-110012. That My Son Name is Written/Shown Mentioned Record as B. Gowshik. His Correct name B. Kaushik is all Record for all

I, Bala Murugan S/O Arjunan R/O B-352, Budhnagar Inderpuri New Delhi-110012. That My Son Name is Written/Shown Mentioned Record as B. Mathesh. His Correct name B. Mithun is all Record for all future purpose.

PD(9150)A

### Rename Gangubai, SC asks...

"List on February 24, on top of the Board," the bench ordered while deciding to hear the plea of Babuji Rawji Shah, who claims to be the adoptive son of Gangubai, against the Bombay High Court's order declining him various reliefs such as interim stay on the release of the movie. ers of the novel from creating any third-party rights or writing any other story on the life of

# Nawab

his mother (Gangubai Kathiawadi).

"I have reason to believe that Malik has been found to be guilty of an offence punishable under the provisions of PMLA," Assistant Director of ED Niraj Kumar stated in the arrest order.

Sixty-two-year-old Malik who hit national news headlines after he came out with a series of revelations about former director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede in recent months in the wake of the arrest of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan and others in connection with the mid-sea drug bust case - remained unnerved by his arrest by the ED.

"We will fight, win and expose all," the NCP Minister

Later, Malik told a special court designated to hear cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), "The ED officials came to my house early in the morning, took me to the ED office where they detained me and later, recorded my statement. At the ED office, the officials gave me a summons copy at the ED office and asked me to sign it."

The ruling NCP and its two allies Shiv Sena and Congress in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the State came to the

staunch defence of Malik. Within hours after Malik's arrest, NCP chief Sharad Pawar - who is considered the architect of the MVA Government -- confabulated with his senior party colleagues at his south Mumbai residence "Silver Oak" and later met Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's official residence "Varsha" at Malabar Hill and discussed the strategy to deal with the situation arising out of Malik's arrest.

Talking to media persons later in the evening, senior NCP Minister Chhagan Bhujbal said following the arrest, Malik would not resign from the State Cabinet. "The ED has arrested on flimsy grounds. Without any proof, the ED is trying to link Malik to the accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. At no point in time, Malik's name ever figured in the blasts case. Here was a Minister who was fearlessly exposing the misdeeds of the Narcotics Control Bureau, its director and the BJP. What the ED has done is an act of vendetta. We will fight Malik's arrest both legal-

ly and on streets," Bhujbal said. Bhujbal said the leaders of the MVA constituents - comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress - will stage a dharna at the Gandhi statue near Mantralaya (State Secretariat) in south Mumbai on Thursday morning in protest against the "misuse" of investigating agencies by the Centre against its political rivals. "Thereafter, we will organise protests against Malik's arrest in various parts of the state," he Coming down heavily on the ED for arresting a Minister without serving a notice to

him, State NCP president and senior Minister Jayant Patil said, "The arrest is nothing but sheer misuse of power. The ED officials visit him early in the morning, pick him up and take him to their office where they arrest him some hours later. The ED had not served any notice to Malik. This is how the ED is treating a responsible minister in the State government. This goes against the letter and spirit of Centre-state relations? While it is not formally

confirmed by the ED as to nature of the offences for which he had been booked, official sources said Malik was reportedly questioned by the ED in connection with the allegations that he and his family had purchased 2.80 acre plot of land from the "front man" of Dawood's sister Haseena Parker --Mohammad Salim Patel -and 1993 blasts accused and Badshah Khan at a throw away price in 2005. It may be recalled that in

the second week of November last year, senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Devendra Fadnavis, had sought to link him to the underworld by alleging that he and his family had purchased a huge plot of land at "a throw-away price" from two henchmen of Karachi-based Dawood.

future purpose. PD(9149)A

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# **Delhi Govt all set to** revamp its websites

The aim is to provide a one-stop solution to all Government-related information and departmental services: Kailash Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI** 

 $W^{ith \ the \ aim \ to \ provide \ a}_{one-stop \ solution \ to \ all}$  Government-related information and services offered by its departments, the Delhi Government is planning to revamp its websites.

The sites will have all new features and will be faster, dynamic and more userfriendly. Officials said that the new websites will also be compatible with all types of devices, including desktops, tablets and

In a review meeting convened by Delhi's Information Technology Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday, the new vendors presented their proposal for the revamped design along with all new fea-tures that the Government sites would be hosting.

"The development of the new website is being done by taking into account various feedback received from its users through the existing sites and social media channels. The current interface occasionally shows errors and the server crashes when there is a heavy influx, especially in the event where a new scheme is being launched," said an offi-

"The new website will also see more interactive features like IoT (Internet of Things) and chatbot integration,



enhanced security features for in-house and external links, better and advanced search options, visitor's grievances and suggestions portals.

Social media integration with all relevant handles will ensure that all policies, announcements, press publications, reports with partner organisations are available for public access," said the official.

Last year, the IT department had floated a tender for design, development, host, operation and maintenance of Delhi State Portal and associated websites of the Delhi Government.

"The new vendors have already started work on the same. The templates and design has been finalised and the first phase of launch of revamped websites is expected to go live by April.

The remaining department websites are expected to be completed in phases and will be live in a few months," said the official. "Delhi Government, under the lead-

ership of our Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has changed public service delivery in the Capital and with many of our departments going faceless,

there is need for a user-friend-

ly website. Government web-

sites are considered to be out-

dated and difficult to manoeu-

vre and we are about to change

that," said Gahlot. These websites are being designed with state-of-theart, more robust, secure and faster systems which will enable the system to switch automatically to a secondary hosting server in case of high traffic to ensure a smooth

experience to all users. Linking the websites to our social media and communication channels will not just make it more interactive for the user but also increase transparency and accountability in the way the Government func-

We are also trying to incororate features that will aid the differently-abled through voice support, soon," Gahlot added.

### 5K city parks to get D-STPs

**Use of treated water** in Delhi gardens will reduce dependency on groundwater

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

To treat sewage water locally and use it for gardening purposes, the Delhi Government will construct Decentralised-Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs) in 5,000 parks of the national Capital. Water Minister and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Chairman, Satyendar Kumar Jain visited an under construction D-STP in a park in Model Town and inspected the ongoing work. He instructed officials to make use of the existing space of the park. The treated water will act as fertiliser for plants.

Jain said, "The D-STP must be aesthetically pleasing and landscaping should be part of the system. This will be a huge step towards creating a natural ecosystem and to help the flora and fauna to grow in the area. A proper mechanism should be placed to ensure public convenience is not compromised."

Currently, the Government is building D-STPs at five major locations of Delhi, i.e. Sheikh Sarai-I, Sheikh Sarai-II, Sandesh Vihar, Ashok Vihar, and Model Town. These D-STPs can be considered as a sustainable and cost-effective alternative for the treatment of wastewater.

"In these 5,000 parks of Delhi, the old method of irrigation will be changed. The

new D-STPs will provide the solution to this water contamination problem. The recycled water, after the treatment, could be easily reused for the irrigation practices in the parks which will save precious groundwater and will not need any additional pipeline to sup-ply," a Government official said. Apart from this, D-STPs will save the amount of funds being spent on the procure-ment of fartilizer because the ment of fertiliser because the treated water will have all the essential nutrients and thus no additional fertiliser will be required, he said.

Currently, the water that is needed for gardening is extracted from tube wells that could otherwise be used for drinking water purposes. By constructing the D-STPs, the treated water will be used for gardening purposes and dependency on groundwater will be reduced. Hence, the groundwater levels that are gradually decreasing will be conserved.

D-STP is a mechanism of placing wastewater treatment at the site of origin of wastewater. The official said that currently STPs are installed at distant geographical locations of the city and water is collected from different sources and treated for further use by laying an expensive conveyance system.

"This will not only resolve the complex problem of sewage transportation but will also help rejuvenate the local water bodies and increase ground-water levels by allowing the treated water to flow into them. D-STPs are sustainable alternatives to large treatment plants that require miles of costly supply, effort and delivery of infrastructure," he said.

### **AAP** gears up for MCD polls

Booth Samvaad, MCD Badlaav Yatra to begin from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the municipal elections round the corner, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced the start of 'Booth Samvaad' and 'MCD Badlaav Yatra' campaigns from Thursday to expand its reach to every household of the national Capital.

AAP Delhi Convenor and Cabinet Minister Gopal Rai along with senior leader and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in-charge Durgesh Pathak announced that the party leaders will hold dialogue with the people of Delhi at 13,000 booths through the 'Booth Samvaad' campaign from February 24 to March 10.

According to Rai, all of AAP's top brass, MLAs and party workers will take out massive 'MCD Badlaav Yatras' in all 70 constituencies of Delhi on 12th and 13th March. Booth Samvaad campaign

will involve all old and new party members who will help chalk out a plan for throwing the BJP out of power and bringing change in the MCD. A 20 member committee will be formed at each booth to accomplish the 'Booth Vijay' initiative.

At the same time, Durgesh Pathak stated, "No matter where you come from, the moment you enter Delhi all you see is mountains of garbage left behind by the BJP-ruled MCD. Almost 99 per cent of

Delhiites want to bring a revolutionary change in the MCD; the Kejriwal Model will soon bring MCD back on track.
"The BJP has been in power for
the last 15 years in the MCD.
Their rule has been punctuated by all sorts of corruption, misgovernance and agony imposed on innocent residents.

The AAP has taken a resolve to bring a revolutionary change and provide relief to the whole of Delhi by ending the tyranny of the BJP. In this vein, we had earlier kicked off the MCD Badlaav Campaign. Under this campaign, about 20 lakh new members joined the AAP. We had issued a missedcall number for this purpose along with a door-to-door

campaign," said Rai.
"All of these new and old members of the AAP, as well as all of those who wish to actively campaign for change in MCD, will begin the dialogue at party booths throughout Delhi's 13,000 booths," said

Hitting hard at the BJP, Pathak said that since the last Assembly election, the AAP has continuously exposed scam after scam in the BJP's 15 year long rule of the MCD.
"We took out door to door

campaigns and about 2,500 mandal sabhas as well as a robust membership campaign. Under our campaign we went to the public to ask whether they want change and want to get rid of the BJP's garbage mountains in Delhi. We all know how Delhi

was once known because of Qutub Minar and Red Fort but today MCD's landfills overshadow every monument and bring shame to Delhi," said

#### Meet on security of G'gram housing complexes held

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

After chairing a meeting with officials regarding the security of housing complexes of Gurugram, Union Minister, of Gurugram, Union Minister, Rao Inderjeet Singh on Wednesday said that the Chintels Paradiso incident has increased the distrust in builders and the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975 will be amended.

On February 10, at least two persons were killed in Gurugram after a portion of the sixth floor of an apartment

The Minister said if necessary steps are not put in place then the interest of builders and buyers in Gurugram could be

He said at present a structural engineer appointed by the builders provides a structural audit certificate and on this, the District Town and Country Planning Department (DTCP) has to issue the relevant permission to develop a housing

"To avoid such incidents in future the law will be amended and the Government needs to prepare a mechanism so that apart from the structural engineers appointed by the builders, the DTCP will also conduct a structural audit through reputed Government institutions or structural engineers empanelled by them before giving the occupation certificate," he said.

The Minister also informed that a meeting in this regard has already taken place between the Government and department officials to avoid such incidents in future.

### Panel to investigate financial irregularity in accounts of DU's College of Vocational Studies

PTI NEW DELHI

two-member committee Atwo-member communed
headed by a retired high
court judge has been constituted to investigate the alleged financial discrepancies in all accounts of the Delhi University's College of Vocational Studies, officials said on Wednesday.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the college's governing body on Wednesday. The enquiry com-(retired) Sunil Gaur.

During the meeting, an audit report into the alleged financial irregularities by the college administration between 2010 and 2013 was presented to governing body, headed by Chairman Rajan Chopra.

The audit report highlighted many "irregularities in operational processes, documentation, compliance and internal controls that expose the college to a very high level of financial risk", as per the minutes of the meeting.

"Financial discrepancies in several accounts were reported. The governing body discussed recommendations made by auditor and accepted part of 1 report," the minutes read. It was noted that several

documents were not made available to the auditor by the accounts, admin, the librarian and the coordinator of the IGNOU Centre running from the college.The audit was ordered by the governing body last November to investigate

the alleged corruption in all the accounts of the college. The audit was initiated after irregularities in the purchase of library books surfaced, the officials said.

Principal Inderjeet Dagar had been accused of financial irregularities when 180 books purchased for a lakh didn't reach the college, officials said.

There have been com-

plaints of financial and administrative irregularities against him, according to the officials. decided to set up a two-member enquiry committee comprising Justice (Retd,) Sunil Gaur (Chairman) and CA Arun Vasistha as members to investigate the financial deficiencies in all the accounts (including 1GNOU) of the college," the minutes read.

The governing body has also decided to extend the internal audit for another four

Last month, the DU administration accepted the report by retired Delhi High Court judge Justice S N Dhingra, which found irregularities in the purchase of library books for the college and asked principal Dagar to proceed on leave till further orders so that further inquiry could be conducted.

The principal has misused his position and has been indulged in many irregularities including related to UGC exams," said Kumar Ashutosh, Secretary of CVS teachers'

### BJP seals liquor shop near ayurvedic hosp at Haidarpur-Shalimar road

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday sealed a liquor shop functioning near Ayurvedic Hospital at Haidarpur-Shalimar road in the presence of party workers and

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said "We will not allow the Kejriwal's dictatorship to run these shops in residential areas,

"Party leaders and workers will get all illegally opened liquor shops in capital sealed, including those near schools and temples. Hitting out at Delhi Government, he said that every person in national capital is



questioning Kejriwal govern-ment move of "distributing" liquor instead of ensuring clean water, building schools, hospitals

"The long queue near liquor dents and risking safety of women, youth and children. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has tried to destabilize law and order situation in Delhi. Together with liquor mafia of Delhi, they are working to make Delhi a liquor city," he added.

### Min conducts surprise inspection of Govt's child protection home

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Women and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam conducted a surprise inspection of government's child protection home and correctional home on Wednesday and directed officials to remove all shortcomings to improve facilities for children. During the inspection, he also interacted with all children. The children shared their future plans with ministhe children to move ahead and fulfil their dreams and also become good citizens of society. Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar was advised to ensure a continuous dialogue with children and staff in which himself and



IAS/administrative officers would be present. "This will help in establishing direct communication with children and raise their self-confidence and standard of living. It will also ensure that all problems in institution such as improvement, maintenance or providresolved and addressed quickly," the statement issued by the office of Women and Child Development Minister. Gautam said "Our aim is that all ashrams of Delhi government should be world-class like its government schools."

### Gang of robbers held after encounter in Wazirabad

STAFF REPORTER ■

With the arrest of five men, the Delhi Police on Wednesday busted a gang of robbers involved in multiple robbery cases across the National Capital. Police said after an encounter in North Delhi's Wazirabad area. The accused have been identified as Jitendra Kumar Maurya (26), Rakesh Kumar Maurya (29), and Ravinder (26), Atul (28), all residents of Gonda district in Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Naresh Kumar Mandal (27), a resident of Jharkhand.

Police said that Atul was nabbed by the police team on February 16 and during interrogation, he revealed his involvement in committing the robberies along with his associates.

"At his instance raids were conducted at possible hideouts of his associates, but they were found absconding," said police. According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DĆP), North district, the other gang members were nabbed on Tuesday when a tipoff told police that Jitender and Naresh Mandal, involved in several robbery cases in Delhi and NCR, would come to Wazirabad along with others in

**IGIA's plush arrival terminal** 

a car. "On the basis of the information, police laid a trap at RCC Nala Road in Wazirabad and intercepted the suspect vehicle around 10.40 PM. As police made the bid to intercept the car, four men came out and started running and one of them opened fire," retaliated and shot Jitender in

After a brief exchange of gunfire, all four persons were apprehended," said DCP. "Two country-made pistols, five live cartridges, one empty cartridge, and one car have been recovered from their possession. Jitender has been shifted to Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital for treatment," the DCP added.

Explaining the modus operandi of the gang, the DCP said that the gang member Atul is the School friend of Naresh and he used to arrange accommodation for the stay of his associates in Delhi and its peripherals.

He used to recce in market area to identify their targets. After setting targets, Jitender used to call two associates, who are experts in weapon handling, to execute robbery. While Jitender and Naresh used to remain present in crowds on two wheelers for any assistance, if needed," said

#### Illegal private hosp busted in G'gram **STAFF REPORTER** ■ GURUwho were nabbed are Bittu hospital and his name stamp is

A Joint team of Haryana's Chief Minister Flying wing, district Drug Controller and Health Department on Tuesday busted an illegal private hospital being operated in Gurugram. Police said that they have booked a doctor and two others who were running hospital without requisite documents or license from district health department. The doctor has been identified as Dr Dharmender. His accomplices

Yadav, the operator of hospital and Sonu. According to police, the culprits were allegedly running 14/15 beds hospital in name of Shri Balaji Hospital in a rented building in village Falijwas Market on Pachgaon-Taurau road Road. It is alleged that Yadav was running a private hospital and used to treat patients and even normal and cesarean deliveries were being conducted without female doctors and surgeons illegally. Based on reliable information a joint team of chief minister flying squad, district drug controller and health department conducted raid at illegal hospital and found Bittu Yaday. Sonu and 10 other nursing and cleaning staff on spot. "Sony was failed to produce any degree. He informed the police that hospitalized patients are being treated by Dr Dharmender, Dr Dharmender was called to hospital for an enquiry, he said that he is working in Shri Balaji Hospital on a salary/sharing basis since August 21 but for last two months he is not coming to this

being misused on patients' files," said Inderjeet DSP, (CM flying squad). The raiding team have also recovered multiple fake medical certificates, medicines of expired date, 4 stamps of 2 doctors which were printed respectively on name of Dr Samit Bansal, Dr Dharmender and Dr Abhendra Shekhar and a stamp in name of Shri Balaji Hospital. The raiding team also sealed a large number of medicines which hospital operator could not provide any bills/documents about whose buy & sale.

### **DMRC** launches renewed official website, mobile app view the complete route for

STAFF REPORTER

In line with the Government of India's 'Digital India' initiative, the Delhi Metro Rail (DMRC) Corporation launched its revamped official website and mobile application with many advanced features such as interactive route maps, advanced station search options, real time first and last train time calculator, next and nearest station alert on the app etc. The new look official website as well as a state-of-the-art mobile application of DMRC was launched at Metro Bhawan for the greater convenience of passengers by Managing Director Dr Mangu Singh in the presence of other senior



designed as a bilingual platform with all features being available both in Hindi and English. For the first time, DMRC has also integrated its website and the mobile application which will ensure faster updates and flow of information on both the platforms. "The passengers have been provided with the Interactive Map feature on the Website and Mobile App to plan their journey quickly and efficiently. Passengers using the Interactive Map are able to

their journey along with information of stations and interchanges on their selected route," the DMRC said in a statement."It also has the provision for the passengers to view the complete details of each station in the DMRC network. The various details shown include station location on map, station details, gate details, lift/ escalator availability with location, key nearby places and station facilities," it added. On the DMRC Mobile App, passengers using this feature while making their journey on Metro trains will be alerted prior to reaching their destination station via push notifications on their mobile phone, it said.

### NDMC approves proposal for smart roads, sewer treatment plant in city

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday approved proposal for smart roads, sewer treatment plant and green energy in National Capital. According to a senior NDMC official, the redevelopment of roads into 'smart roads' will not only be aesthetically evolved, but also designed to ensure user-convenience and experience without compromising safety of the users. The roads which will be resurfaced include Tilak Marg, KG Marg, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, Pandara Road, Tolstoy Marg, Hailey Road, Tansen Marg and Babar Road. The total cost of project is Rs 7.25 crore."The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is developing Smart Roads that are not only aesthetically evolved, but also designed to ensure user-convenience and experience without compromising their safety. The Council has approved two projects for resurfacing of roads, said the senior NDMC official. "It been observed that condition of some avenue roads has deteriorated and completed five-year period, and it has been decided that strengthening and resurfacing of these avenue roads is required with cold milling process for improving their riding quality and for maintaining existing level of road," he said. The NDMC has also approved detailed estimate amounting to Rs 50.79 lakh with 5 per cent contingencies for supplying.

### at T1 becomes operational **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is all set to receive passengers at the newly-constructed state-of-the-art "Arrival Terminal" of T1 from Thursday. The terminal will become operational with the arrival of IndiGo flight (6E 6532) from Goa at 3.20 AM on Thursday.

"With the opening of the new arrival terminal, the entire arrivals operations of T1 (IndiGo and SpiceJet) will shift from the existing facility to the new one. Departure operations will continue from the existing terminal, and will eventually be integrated with



the new arrivals hall post completion of the expansion works," said a spokesperson of the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) According to officials, DIAL, a GMR Infrastructure-led consortium, has built the new T1 Arrivals as part of Delhi Airport's ongoing phase-3A Expansion project"The new arrival terminal would also offer a distinctive experience to people with a contemporary meet and greet including landscaping and kiosks for food and beverage (F&B), retail and expanded parking area for cars, and more," said the spokesperson. "On the city side, the pick-up lanes outside the arrival

zone, plush forecourt area,

terminal have been realigned and widened with three additional lanes, taking the total number of lanes to 11. This will ease vehicle traffic congestion and significantly improve passenger experience and convenience during pickup," the spokesperson added. "T1 at Delhi airport will now offer a distinctive experience to arriving passengers and also to those coming in to meet and greet the arriving passengers.

## **Brick-kilns to convert to** eco-friendly technology

In a move aimed to fight airpollution, the Government has made it mandatory for the existing brick-kilns to convert to the eco-friendly zigzag technology or vertical shaft within next two years. Henceforth, only those new structures will be approved which follow such a technique.

A notification in this regard has been issued by the Union Environment Ministry on February 22, 2022.

Also, as per the notification, new brick kilns have been mandated to use piped natural gas (PNG) as fuel in the brick-making process while the existing one shall use only approved fuel such as coal, fire wood and/or agricultural residues besides PNG. Use of pet coke, tyres, plastic, hazardous waste shall not be allowed in brick kilns, as per the notification which comes into force with immediate effect.

Presently, the majority of brick kilns are using fixed Chimney Bulls Trench Kiln (FCBTK) that emits black soot, causing heavy air pollution. According to experts, the real difference between the FCBTK and the zig-zag technology driven brick kiln is that in the former the placement of bricks



whereas in the latter the bricks are placed in a zig-zag pattern. The zig-zag pattern allows efficient manoeuvre of the air for heating purposes.

As per the rules which will be called the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2022, brick kilns should be established at a minimum distance of 0.8 kilometre from habitation and fruit orchards. "State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees may make existing criteria stringent considering proximity to habitation, population density, water bodies, sensitive receptors, etc," said the notification signed by Union Environment Ministry Additional Secretary Naresh Pal Gangawar.

It states that brick kilns should be established at a minimum distance of one kilometre from an existing brick kiln to avoid clustering of kilns in

is done in a straight pattern, an area and will follow process emission/fugitive dust emission control existing guidelines.

The ash generated in the brick kilns shall be fully utilized in-house in brick making. Also, necessary approvals have to be taken from the concerned authorities for extracting the soil to be used for brick mak-

A research by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a regional intergovernmental organisation working in the Hindu Kush Himalayas as part of the UN's Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) initiative has found that "there is also a strong business case for converting to zig-zag technology. It reduces coal consumption by 20 per cent, carbon emissions by 40-60pc, produces more Agrade bricks, and brick production can be enhanced as it is very important to have

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

status quo or attempt to uni-

the eastern Ladakh border

standoff with absolute clarity

that it will not agree to any

change in the status quo. More

than 50,000 troops each from

both the sides are now

deployed in front line positions

Jaishankar said he was opti-

mistic about resolving the issue

through dialogue and that sig-

nificant headway was made in

many of the friction points fol-

lowing talks between military

commanders of the two sides.

that we will not agree to any

change in the status quo. Any

attempt to change the LAC uni-

laterally by one side. So, how-

ever, complex it is, however

long it takes, however difficult

it is, I think that clarity is what

disengagement is the goal right

now and that he was optimistic

about the resolution of the issues. "I would say other

Jaishankar said achieving

guides us," he said.

"We are absolutely clear

In an interactive session at

think-tank in Paris,

on the LAC in Ladakh.

laterally alter the LAC.

As stand-offs persist at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Ladakh for perseverance. Believe me, I have got those the last two years, External qualities in reasonable measaid on Wednesday India will sure and my system has it in not agree to any change in the the reasonable measure which Reiterating the country's stand, he also said India is engaged in talks with China on is more important," he said.

'We will carry on with this and disen-

gagement is right now the goal. Because it is only when disengagement happens we can then start talking about decalation," the minister said.

He arrived in Paris on Sunday on a three-day trip after paying a two-day visit to Germany. The external affairs minister said both sides held several rounds of talks between military commanders with a focus on disengagement.

"As a result of that, we have made significant headway in many of the friction points. There are some frictions points that still remained to be resolved. It has its complexity because these are areas where there are claims and then there are various military considerations which become the subiect of the conversation," he

The 14th round of military talks had taken place last month during which India pressed for an early disen-

gagement of troops in the remaining friction points.

Jaishankar asserted that India is approaching the matter with clarity.

Won't agree to any change in status quo at LAC: Jaishankar

"I am optimistic. I am optimistic temperamentally because if you are into diplomacy and negotiations, it is completely necessary that you are optimistic," he said.

The border standoff in eastern Ladakh erupted in May, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area. The face-off escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June Following the clashes, both

sides gradually enhanced their deploymentby rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in Gogra as well as in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake last year.

### 'India, France unaffected by vagaries of circumstances'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $R^{ ext{elations}}$  between India and France are unaffected by the vagaries of circumstances as the ties are based on trust, External Affairs Minister S Iaishankar said on Wednesday. He also said the two countries intend to create better options for countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

He made these remarks in relation to the Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China flexing its muscle in the strategically important region. The minister, however, refrained from naming China.

India's ties with France are based on a great sense of trust and it is a relationship that has been free from sudden shifts and surprises seen in other cases, Jaishankar said.

In an address at a thinktank in Paris, Jaishankar said India and France intend to create better options for countries in the Indo-Pacific region and enable them to make sovereign and free choices as they should neither be subjected to domination nor caught in a binary power rivalry.

The minister said New Delhi is specifically looking forward to France as a key partner in the defence and industrial sectors and "ambitious ideas" for collaborative defence ventures in India are being explored that will support common interests in the Indo Pacific as well.

He said India sees France as a trusted collaborator in countering security challenges from the seabed to space and

from cyber to oceans. Through the tumult of our times, India's relations with France have continued to move forward on a steady and clear course. It is a relationship that has been free from sudden shifts and surprises that we sometimes see in other cases,' Jaishankar said at the French

Institute of International

"In India, there is a great sense of trust and confidence in the relationship. It is deeply institutionalised and benefits from a strong political consensus on its importance. I believe that we have seen the same here in France," he said.

Elaborating upon the finer aspects of the ties, Jaishankar said France has never hesitated to voice its own positions on key issues and its lack of dogmatism contributed to building a strong partnership with a rising power like India. "We saw that, for example, when it came to a complex issue like accommodating India in the global

### RSS to hold meet with ABPS to lay out future agenda

PNS NEW DELHI

s it seeks to expand its A'Shakaas' to one lakh before it completes 100 years of its foundation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will hold meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), its highest decisionmaking body, at Karnavati in Ahmedabad, from March 11-13 to work-out future activities.

The top RSS body will discuss in Gujarat the current political situation in the country and may also take up controversies revolving around 'hijab' and views on Uniform Civil Code, according to

As the organisation progresses to its 100th year, it would, among other issues, focus on its further "geographical expansion" reaching from the present strength of

RSS was established in Nagpur on September 27, 1925.

There are 6 lakh villages with RSS having only 55,000 and thus would attempt at vil-

'Basti' and 'border villages expansion', sources said. They said RSS has "successfully" conducted

"highway shakhas" in Southern Tamil Nadu that helped accident victims as also "reduction' in road mishaps. In 2021, ABPS took place

in Bengaluru where only a handful of top functionaries met. The rest joined virtually.

This meeting will be taking place a date after election results to five state assemblies are to be announced.

The RSS, described as the mother organisation of the ruling BJP, is also engaged in collecting details of 'forgotten heroes' of freedom struggle as it had a book released on which, according to their estimate, explains the role of 23 people who were jailed in

#### 4,700 cases being probed by ED, only 313 arrested since enactment of PMLA in 2002, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the **I** Supreme Court on Wednesday that 4,700 cases are being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as on date, and only 313 people have been arrested for the alleged offences since the enactment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLÁ) in 2002.

The total amount covered by interim orders of no coercive action passed by the courts in such matters is approximately Rs 67,000 crore, the government told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, that in money laundering cases relating to and Nirav Modi, the ED has confiscated around Rs 18,000 crore by the orders of the courts following due proce-

dure. The apex court is dealing with a batch of petitions concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the

"As on date, 4,700 cases are being investigated, right from the inception, by the Directorate of Enforcement. The number of cases taken up for investigation each year in last five years varies from 111 cases in 2015-16 to 981 in 2020-21. This is the average number of cases," Mehta told the bench.

He said the top court is dealing with a statute which is not just penal but a preventive and regulatory statute providing for investigation and final prosecution.

"I can tell you at the outset, right from 2002, the year in which the PMLA Act was enacted, till date, there are date, in 20 years, 313 arrests," he said, adding, "And the reason is, very strict statutory

## Tejas to participate in exercise at UK in March

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Indigenously designed and **⊥**manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft will fly alongside front line fighter jets of several countries in a multination exercise named 'Ex Cobra Warrior 22' at Waddington, United Kingdom from March 6 to 27.

The exercise is aimed at providing operational exposure and share best practices amongst the participating Air Forces, thereby enhancing combat capability and forging bonds of friendship. This will be a platform for Tejas to demonstrate its manoeuvrability and operational capabil-

Five Tejas aircraft will fly to the United Kingdom. IAF C-17 aircraft will provide the necessary transport support for induction and de-induction, deal for Brahmos supersonic officials said here on cruise missiles. The deal is

The participation of the Tejas in UK drills come days after the aircraft displayed its over five billion dollars by



The Tejas aerobatic display there took place weeks after India and the Philippines inked the biggest and first ever export

products.

India is aiming at exporting defence equipment worth

In the past, IAF had participated in similar Air Shows like LIMA-2019 in Malaysia and Dubai Air Show-2021 to exhibit indigenous aircraft and formation aerobatic teams.

Giving a push to the export endeavour, the Union Cabinet in 2020 gave its go-ahead to the sale of Akash missile systems to friendly foreign countries and created a high-powered panel for swifter approval to export of military hardware.

The committee to speed up ter, external affairs minister and the national security advisor on board. Several foreign countries have shown interest in the

Akash missile system during international and local defence exhibitions.

Apart from authorising the export of defence platforms, the mandate of the committee is to explore opportunities for the government-to-government sale of military hardware to foreign countries.

The defence ministry awarded a Rs. 48,000-crore contract to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL)last year for 83 LCA Mk-1A jets for will be delivered to the air force by March 2024, with the rest slated to join its combat fleet by

### SC quashes plea seeking nixing of offline Board exams

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on The Supreme Source a Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking cancellation of offline board examinations for classes 10 and 12 to be conducted by the CBSE and several other boards this year, saying such petitions give "false hope" and create "confusion" among students who are going to appear in these exams.

The apex court observed that the petition is "ill-advised" and "premature" and the authorities are yet to take appropriate decision with regard to conducting exams of the various boards.

"Such petitions give false hope to the persons who are going to appear in the examinations. Those students will be misled by this petition. Let the authorities take decision. If

the decision is wrong, challenge that decision. Here, you want to pre-empt everything," a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar told the lawyer appearing for the petitioners. 'This creates not only false

hopes, it creates confusion all over to students who are preparing," said the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar. The counsel appearing for the petitioners said that most of the state boards have not yet declared the dates for examinations. "Whenever examination is due, they will declare those dates, what is the problem," the bench observed.

At the outset, the counsel appearing for the petitioners, A Sahai and others, referred to the order passed by the apex court last year in the matter pertaining to board exams their job," the bench observed.

amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The bench said what had happened in the past cannot be the basis to pass order now. "Entertaining such petitions is creating more confusion in the system. Let the authorities take decision," the bench said.

What kind of petitions are being filed," the top court said. adding, "It is not that because they were entertained last year because of the peculiar circumstances and situation, we will go on and this will become a norm." The top court observed that such kind of petition misleads and in the past three days, it has seen there are news items everywhere on this.

"What kind of petitions are being filed and what kind of publicity is given to this issue," it said, adding, "This has to stop". "Let the students do their job and let the authorities do

#### Congress alleges ₹6,000 crore coal scam in Gujarat PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI** 

ongress on Wednesday Calleged a coal scam of Rs 6,000 crore in Guiarat whereby coal meant for small and medium industry was diverted to industries in other states and demanded a time-bound investigation by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. The opposition party said the probe should investigate the role of all the four chief ministers of Gujarat in the last 14 years when the alleged scam happened.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the "missing" 60 lakh tonnes of coal. "60 lakh tonnes of coal 'missing'! Will the Prime 'Friend' Minister say any-

Gandhi asked in a tweet in Hindi. He cited a news report alleging that 60 lakh tonnes of coal was missing in Gujarat, terming it a Rs 6000 crore scam.

"We demand that a time bound investigation should be constituted under the sitting judge of Supreme Court. This investigation should investigate involvement of all the 4 chief ministers of Gujarat from 2008 till date (Narendra Modi, Anandiben Patel, Vijay Rupani and BhupendraBhai Patel) in this Rs 6,000 crore scam," Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said AICC spokesman.

He alleged that a coal scam of Rs 6,000 crore has come to light in Gujarat, whereby in the last 14 years, instead of giving coal to the small and medium level

the Gujarat government have sold it to the industries of other states at a higher price. He alleged that coal extracted from various mines of Coal India did not reach the industries for which it was extracted.

Vallabh said it is interesting to note that Narendra Modi (Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014) was also holding the charge of Industry, Mines and Minerals Department of Government of Gujarat (December 2007 to December 2012) after which Vijay Rupani (August 2016 to September 2021) and Bhupendra Patel (Sept 2021 till date) also kept the Industry, Mines and Minerals Department of Government of Gujarat with

#### appointments irks SC PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Delay in nodal officers'

**NEW DELHI** 

the Supreme Court on Wednesday rapped States and Union Territories for delay in appointing nodal officers for utilisation of funds allocated for infrastructure in Consumer Commissions and said they will have to bear consequences for non-compliance of the order. A bench of Justices SK Kaul and M M Sundresh said the States and UTs are not understanding the severity of the situation and we have to do something more to make them understand

"We will have to be merciless to make you understand," the apex court said while imposing a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the states and the UTs which

Heritage tag for Ram sethu: SC to

have not filed an affidavit mentioning compliance of its order. 'Once again the states have done it! They seem just not to appreciate the significance of the time schedule laid down by the court. We expected that, after the order dated December 1, 2021 where we had clearly mentioned the significance of the time period, things will change. They have not. States must bear the consequences of not complying with the order of this court within the stipulated time," the bench said.

The top court granted four weeks to the states and UTs to file compliance and warned that in case of failure, the concerned Secretaries will have to remain present. The matter is listed for next hearing on April

### **LD** attaches properties of SF Commandant's kin

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached four immovable properties and four Mutual Funds worth Rs 2.87 crore in the name of Tanya Sanyal (wife of Satish Kumar, Commandant BSF) and his son Bhaskar Bhuvan under the Prevention Of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in an illegal cattle smuggling case. The ED had initiated

money laundering investiga-tion on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI against Satish Kumar, the then Commandant of Border Security Force (BSF), Md. Enamul Haque and others for illegal cattle smuggling into Bangladesh from India, the ED said in a statement.

"Investigation by the ED revealed that bribe to the tune of Rs 12.8 crore was deposited by Manoj Sana, associate of Enamul Haque in the bank accounts of Tanya Sanyal and

of Tanya Sanyal)," it said in a statement. Later on, the said 'Proceeds of Crime' were invested in the

Badal Krishna Sanyal (father

now attached immovable properties and Mutual Funds. Haque was also arrested by ED on February 18, 2021 and currently he is in ED custody. Proceeds of Crime to the tune of Rs 179 crore till now have been identified by ED, it

Meanwhile, the ED, in a

separate case provisionally attached two immovable properties including plant and machinery worth Rs 3.81 crore belonging to SLO Industries Limited under PMLA in a bank fraud case. In this case, the ED had ini-

tiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI, BS&FC Bengaluru against SLO Industries Limited and its Director Anil Kumar Ojha and

#### hear Subramanian Swamy's plea PIONEER NEWS SERVICE for the last many months and

**NEW DELHI** 

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear on March 9 BJP leader Subramanian Swamy's plea seeking a direction to the Centre to declare the 'Ram Sethu' a national heritage monument. The bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli was told by Swamy that the plea has not come up for hearing

that it should not be deleted from the cause list. "We will list for hearing on March 9," the bench said. Swamy had mentioned his

plea for urgent hearing on April 8 last year as well. Before that, on January 23, 2020, the apex court had said it will consider Swamy's plea after three months. The BJP leader had submitted he had already won the first round of the litigation in which the Centre accepted the existence

of Ram Sethu. He further said the Union Minister concerned had called a meeting in 2017 to consider his demand but nothing happened subsequently

The BJP leader had raised the issue of declaring the Ram Sethu a national monument in his PIL against the controversial Sethusamudram Ship Channel project, initiated by the UPA-I government. The matter reached the apex court, which in 2007 had stayed work for the project on the

Ram Sethu. The Centre later said it had considered the "socio-economic disadvantages" of the project and was willing to explore another route to the shipping channel project without damaging the Ram Sethu. The apex court had on

November 13, 2019 granted six weeks to the Centre to clarify its stand on the Ram Sethu. It had also granted liberty to Swamy to approach the court if the response of the Centre

## **CITU spanner in Kerala's** bid to attract investors

Won't allow investors to hire staff of their choice: CITU

Pinarayi Vijayan's efforts to make Kerala an investor friendly destination took a turn for the worse on Wednesday as the Centre for Indian Trade Union (CITU), the trade union wing of the party, making it known that it would not allow the entrepreneurs to hire the employees of their choice to work in the industrial/business establishments.

Anathalavattam Anandan, the Kerala boss of the CITU, the leading militant trade union in the State that controls the entire head load workers in the State said at the capital city that his union would not accept any kind of agreement that denied the workers the right to work, which is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution.

Anandan's statement came a day after a tripartite agreement between the Kerala Government, the CITU and management of SR Associates, a Kannur based business house signed a contract by which the head load workers owing allegiance to the trade union would have the exclusive right to load and unload heavy materials reaching the business

The employees appointed

KOCHI: The Kerala High

Court on Wednesday quashed

a non-bailable warrant issued

against Subramanian Swamy,

MP, by the Thrissur Consumer

Dispute Redressal Forum and

also quashed all the proceed-

ings before the Forum against

who heard the petition moved

by Swamy said that the impugned order was 'passed

behind his back' and without

giving an opportunity of hearing the petitioner and hence the

warrant as well as the pro-

of Express (Malayalam) Pvt

Ltd, the company that pub-

lished Express, a popular

of Thrissur. It was always said

that Thrissur was known for

Lord Guruvayurappan Temple,

Thrissur Pooram and Express

newspaper. Since the company

ran into financial losses, the

daily was wound up in 2003

after liquidation proceedings.

approached the TCDRF against

the company alleging non-

services hit by

snowfall being

restored: J&K

Essential

One of the investors had

Swamy was the chairman

ceedings were unsustainable.

Justice P V Kunhikrishnan,

Kerala HC quashes

non-bailable warrant

against Swamy

by the management of the company would be allowed to load only small materials which are sold from the establish-

Rabeeh Mohammed, the owner of SR Associates had told after the signing of the contract that he was pressurized to sign on the dotted line. "I had toiled in West Asian deserts for almost two decades and invested the entire savings of Rs 70 lakh in this business. I was left with only two options; either shut down the business and go back to West Asia or to toe the CPI(M) line. I chose to obey the party diktat," Mohammed told The Pioneer from Mathamangalam, a party village. He had recruited ten workers offering reasonably fair salary and allowances.

In Kannur district, villages and small towns which are fully controlled by the CPI(M) are known as party villages and there are hundreds of such party villages in the

The dilemma faced by Mohammed made another entrepreneur leave the district and return to UAE. Afzal Kuzhikkad, an expatriate had returned to Mathamangalam and launched a software company AJ Tech IT Solutions

payment of the amount he had

invested in the company.

Swamy came to know about the

non-bailable warrant against

him through news reports and he had to collect the details

under Right To Information

Act which showed that his name was included in the com-

plaint as chairman of the com-

pany and not in his personal

showed that a lawyer had rep-

resented Swamy in the court

and had filed a vakalatnama

the latter told the court that he

had not authorised anybody to

represent him. Appearing on

his own behalf, Swamy told the

court that he has not received

any information about the pro-

that the petitioner was a former

Justice Kunhikrishnan said

Though the court records

which could have grown into a lead software industry in the State. But he was manhandled when he came for shopping at SR Associates and was driven away by the head load

He shut down the enterprises and returned to UAE on Tuesday after informing his relations and friends that it was safe to be in the oil-rich kingdom than in Kerala.

When it was pointed out to Anandan that the Kerala High Court had ruled that the trade unions and employees were violating all norms of business, he said that his union was not interested in knowing what the court was telling. "Our priority is the rights of work-

The Court may tell a lot of things because the judges do not understand the pain of the workers," said Anandan.

Mohammed's business house remained shut down for weeks because of the agitation launched against it by the workers. Kerala has been seeing exodus of entrepreneurs from the State towards Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana of late. Industries minister P Rajeeve had described the situation in the State a cause of concern.

### 2 cops held for student leader's murder in WB

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $T^{\text{he police on Wednesday}}_{\text{arrested two policemen in connection with the alleged}$ murder of Anis Khan a student leader even as the Left backstudent groups continued to take out rallies in all parts of Kolkata jamming streets supporting the demand of the victim's family for acourt-monitored CBI investigation into the case.

This, even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked the protesters not to politicize the incident wondering, "how many people were arrested in Unnao or Hathras ... but here the police have arrested their own men ...though one wonders whether these arrested persons are genuine culprits or

Khan a maverick student leader who had incurred the wrath of the local Trinamool Congress leaders from Amta in Howrah district was allegedlybumped off on Saturday midnight by four persons in police fatigue who came to his house in connection of some police

case. "The family is perhaps

under pressure from some people and is not cooperating with the police ... it has refused to hand over the mobile phone of the victim to the SIT which is a criminal offence in itself," the Chief Minister said adding "here in Bengal the police are doing their job and have arrested two persons ... but how many people were arrested in Unnao and Hathras," Banerjee who had herself demanded CBI investigation after the Rizwanur Rehman death case in 2007 deriving allegedly maximum political points from the month-longagitation ---

Khan had been a popular leader who was gradually gaining publicity among the minority youth through his social media posts.

He had allegedly received threats from the TMC leaders and had also written applications seeking security from State administration and even Human Rights Commission.

Meanwhile, the Left wing students groups from Jadavpur, Calcutta and Aliya Universities continued to stage protest ral-lies on Wednesdayblockading roads throughout Kolkata.

### J&K OK's policy for promotion of foreign investment in UT

 $T^{ ext{he Administrative Council}}_{ ext{(AC)}}$  which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Wednesday approved the Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir- 2022

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K, and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

According to a statement issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, "The new policy is

based on the guiding framework on FDI issued by the Government of India through the RBI and DPIIT and will be valid for the next 10 years". "It aims to facilitate large foreign investments greater than Rs.100 crore with a minimum of 51% foreign stakes", the statement read.

The policy also provides for identifying parcels of land in various industrial estates to be given exclusively to industries with foreign investments including vertical rise premises in the form of multi-purpose buildings/complexes, with plug and play facilities.

According to a govern-ment spokesman, "the land allotment process will be regulated by the J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, 2021-30, whilst such units will also be eligible for benefits, incentives, and support under the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30 and New Central Sector Scheme for the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir". For optimal utilization of

land resources and to provide integrated services to multiple players, the policy also envisages the establishment of multipurpose complexes for foreign investment by developing IT tower projects through private players in Sempora, Pampore and Exhibition Ground, Jammu. These towers will house different business activities and will form a part of the 'Industrial Complex for Foreign Investment'.



A girl helps her brother in holding an umbrella on a snow-covered road, during winter snowfall, in Srinagar on Wednesday PTI

### Decide in 24 hours if you need **CAPF** for civic polls: HC to SEC

PNS KOLKATA

Hearing a petition demanding deployment of central forces in the February 27 elections to 108 municipal boards, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday left it on the State Election Commission to decide if it required central forces. The Court directed the SEC to take a decision in 24 hours on whether it wanted to deploy CAPF. The SEC has been asked to hold a meeting with the Home Secretary and Inspector General

#### Int'i Kolkata **Book Fair** from Feb 28

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid al function of the International Kolkata Book Fair (IKBF) 2022 beginning on February 28.

minister of law and justice of the Union of India. "İt is a well This being the 50th year of Liberation War of Bangladesh, know fact that he is a politician the Publishers and Booksellers and a member of parliament. The Court need not disbelieve Guild, the organisers of the fair, have decided to give special focus on Bangladesh during the version of the petitioner that he has not received any notice from the CDRF," said the this edition of the book fair, Guild general secretary Tridib Chatterjee said on Wednesday.

Famous Bangladeshi writer Selina Hossain will also be present at the inauguration and participate in the literary discourse during the book fair.

The 13-day book fair would be held at Central Park ground in Salt Lake.

He said three gates of the book fair will be the replica of three books penned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh.

Among the other gates, there will be a Satyajit Ray Gate in tribute to the maestro on his 100th birth anniversary and Abanindranath Gate which is a tribute to writer, artist Abanindranath Tagore.

Twenty countries will participate at the International Kolkata Book Fair 2022. PTI of Police to decide whether there is a need to deploy central forces, advocate Sabyasachi Sarkar 90percent votes. said. A similar order was given by Though there was no immethe High Court for February 12 electionsto four municipal cor-

porations of Siliguri, Åsansol, . Bidhannagar and Chandannagar. However the SEC decided to go with the State police. The Trinamool Congress swept the elections often polling more than

diate response from the opposition BJP inside sources said that the saffron party was planning to move the Supreme Court in support of its demand for central

#### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.) E-Mail Id:- eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone:- 07723-223731 पृ.क्र. 1049 / व.ले.लि / का.अ. / लो.स्वा.यां.खण्ड / महासमुन्द / 2020—21 दिनांक 15/02/22

#### निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 492 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89754), 44 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88802), 524 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90062), 549 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90615), 54 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90608), जी न. 66885 को एकल निविदा हो जाने के कारण निरस्त किया जाता है शीघ्र ही पुनः निविदा आमंत्रण की कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

कार्यपालन अभियंता R.O. No. 68124/3 लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड R.O. Date: 23/02/2022 महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM** OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT Paribahan Bhawan, Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 Website: www.comtransport.assam.qov.ir Email: report.ctassam@qmail.com

No. CT-RS/12/2022/789

#### RFP No 08 of 2021-22 Pre bid queries reply

This is in reference to RFP No. CT-RS/12/2022/663 issued dated 11lh Feb 2022 by the Lead Agency on Road Safety for Procurement of Path Suraksha Mitra KIT for the Lead Agency on Road Safety, Assam. In this regard all prospective Bidders are hereby requested to refer the pre-bid query reply uploaded in e- Procurement website: <a href="https://assamtenders.qov.in/">https://assamtenders.qov.in/</a>. The other terms and conditions of the RFP remains unchanged.

-Sd-

Head, Lead Agency on Road Safety Office of the Commissioner of Transport Paribahan Bhawan, Jawahar Nagar Khanapara, Guwahati - 22

Janasanyog/C/12480/21

कार्यालय कार्यपालंन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर जिला सरगुज़ा (छ.ग.)

// Notice Inviting Tender // एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जिला जल एवं स्वब्छता मिशन सरगुजा (जल

Sr.	Tender No.	Last Date	Name of Work	P.A.C.
No.	(System No.) &	(Bid Due Date)		(Rs. In
	Date			Lakh)
١.	126 (93011)	03.03.3022	Constt. of O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible	92.03
	Date 14.02.2022		Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Parsa,	
			Block-Udaipur JJM.	
2.	127 (93012)	03.03.3022	Constt of O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of submersible	51.16
	Date 14.02.2022		Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc., At Village- Pendarkhi,	
			Block- Udaipur, Under JJM.	
3	128 (93013)	03.03.2022	Constt of O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible	76.57
	Date 14.02.2022		Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Pondi,	
			Block- Lakhanpur, Under JJM.	
4	129 (93014)	03.03.2022	Constt of .O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible	102.82
	Date 14.02.2022		Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Salhi,	
			Block-Udaipur, Under JJM.	
5	130 (93009)	03.03.2022	Constt of .O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible	109.00
	Datas 1/ 02 2022	1 1	Pump Providing of EHTC atc. At Village-Salbi II	

Block-Lundra, Under JJM उपरेक्त निर्माण कार्यों की ऑनलाईन (Online Tender) टेण्डर आमंत्रित की जाती है। घरोहर राशि एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट वेब ोर्टल (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) पर देखी जा सकती है।

R.O. No:- 68094/9

कार्यपालंन अभियंत लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड

#### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड–सुकमा, (छ.ग.) (जिला, जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन, जिला-सुकमा) <u>"ई</u>–प्राक्योरमेंट प्रथम निविदा सूचना<u>"</u>

नि. क्र. 133,134,135,136,137,138,139,140,141,142,143,144,145,146,147,148,149,150,151,153 / नि.प्र. / जेजेएम / डी.खब्ल्यू,एस.एम / लो.स्वा. या.ख. / सुकमा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से जल-जीवन मिशन के तहत एकल ग्राम योजनांतर्गत निर्धारित शुंडयूल अनुसार पाईप लाईन विस्तार, उच्च स्तरीय जलटंकी निर्माण, घरेलू नलकनेक्शन प्रदाय आदि कार्यों हेतु प्रपत्र "ए" में ऑनलाईन online निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

स.क.	निविदा सूचना कमांक	सिस्टम निविदा कर्माक	ग्राम / विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत् (लाख में)
1	133	93037	कोलाईगुढ़ा / कोण्टा	27.51
2	134	93039	सगुनघाट / छिन्दगढ	104.44
3	135	93040	किस्टारम / कोण्टा	25.26
4	136	93041	तेमेलवाड़ा / कोण्टा	57.02
5	137	93042	गचनपल्ली / कोण्टा	23.22
6	138	93043	चिंतागुफा / कोण्टा	66.01
7	139	93044	पालेम / छिन्दगढ	89.86
8	140	93045	केरातोंग / छिन्दगढ़	25.69
9	141	93046	मीलामङ्ग् <i>/</i> कोण्टा	17.39
10	142	93047	बिरसटपाल / छिन्दगढ़	80.09
13	143	93048	सदरपाल / छिन्दगढ़	83.50
12	144	93049	पेन्दलनार/छिन्दगढ़	51.08
13	145	93050	कवासीरास / छिन्दगढ	83.99
14	146	93051	बण्डा / कोण्टा	40.32
15	147	93052	बालातोंग / कोण्टा	13.06
16	148	93053	बुजुगपाङ् / कोण्टा	15.73
17	149	93054	दुरमा / कोण्टा	19.21
18	150	93106	एरॅपाड़ / कोण्टा	9.58
19	151	93107	गोमापाङ् / कोण्टा	21.26
20	152	93108	मेहता / कोण्टा	23.39
21	153	93109	मेखावाया / छिन्दगढ	125.70

नोट :- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा, निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज एवं अन्य जानकारी ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट की वेब पोर्टल <u>http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in</u> पर दर्शित एवं डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा की अंतिम तिथि ०९.०३.२०२२ तक है।

R.O.No - 68110/9 R.O. Date - 23/02/2022

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड सुकमा

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR **INSTITUTE OF VETERINARY BIOLOGICALS** A.H. & VETERINARY DEPARTMENT, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-781022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF TECHNICAL EXPERT CONSULTANT FOR PREPARING THE PRE-DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR UP-GRADATION OF IVB TO cGMP STANDARDS AND CONSTRUCTION OF BSL- III DIAGNOSTIC FACILITY AT **ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE, KHANAPARA"** 

Sealed Tender affixing court fee stamp of Rs.8.25/- on behalf of the Director A. H. & Veterinary Department, Assam, Chenikuthi, Guwahati-781003 are invited in single bid system from reputed Consultancy Service Provider for supply of "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF TECHNICAL EXPERT CONSULTANT FOR PREPARING THE PRE-DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR UP-GRADATION OF IVB TO cGMP STANDARDS AND CONSTRUCTION OF BSL- III DIAGNOSTIC FACILITY AT ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE, KHANAPARA" under the Head of account 2403-00-001 0172-000-05-03-EE-GA-V

Schedule of Tender

SI.	Activity Description	Schedule		
1	Tender No.	IVB/GMP/(01)/2021 -22/208 dated 23rd Feb/2022		
2	Published Date	25th February/2022		
3	Issue of bid documents (duration)	26th February'2022 to		
		18th March'2022		
4	Bid submission start date	26th February'2022		
5	Bid submission end date	18th March'2022 (17.00 PM)		
6	Technical Bid opening date	19th March'2022 (14.00 PM)		
7	Financial Bid opening date	After recommendation from Departmental Bid Management Committee (DBMC)		

The complete bid document may be collected from the office of the undersigned only. In the event of specified date for submission of bids are being declared a holiday for purchaser, the bid will be received up to the appointed time on next working day and will be opened at the appointed times and location on the same day.

Mode of bid submission:- The bid should be submitted at Office of the Joint Director, Institute of Veterinary Biologicals, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.

> **Joint Director Institute of Veterinary Biologicals** Khanapara, Guwahati-781022

Janasanyog/C/12495/21

administration to restore affectfrom all the roads falling under its jurisdiction," he said. Pole said apart from five to which have been affected, all

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir administration on Wednesday said all the essential services, affected by heavy snowfall, were being restored on war footing for the convenience of general public. Plains of South Kashmir received two to three feet snow, while Central Kashmir received one to 1.5 feet snow and North Kashmir six inches to one foot.

Besides, hilly areas received two

to four feet snow which affected normal life and services. "All the essential services are being restored on war footing in Kashmir valley following heavy snowfall since Tuesday, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole said. He also appealed general people to keep patience and support the ed services. "The Mechanical Engineering Department completed 70 per cent snow clear-ance under Priority Phase-I while PWD cleared snow

six per cent water supply lines other Water Supply Schemes are functional. He said that the affected water supply schemes will be restored soon for which men and machinery have been put on work.

#### Two more held in Bajrang Dal activist murder case; curfew extended

**Shivamogga:** Two more persons were arrested in the Bajrang Dal activist murder case in Shivamogga, where district authorities have extended the prohibitory orders till Friday.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Wednesday that he has ordered an inquiry against the policemen posted in two police stations in this district headquarters town, in the backdrop of the incident.

Underlining the need to audit the performance of Kote and Doddapete police stations in Shivamogga, he said, "We need to ascertain how many police officers and personnel were there in these two police stations in the past five years and how they monitored these accused (those eight arrested) who have a huge criminal past." He warned that "irresponsible" police officers will not be spared, which led to "the incidents".

Shivamogga Superintendent of Police B M Laxmi Prasad said on Tuesday six people have been booked in connection with the murder of the 28-year-old Harsha, who was stabbed with lethal weapons by a group of people here on Sunday night.

"Eight people have been arrested so far officially while interrogation of others is on," Jnanendra, who hails from the Shivamogga district, told www.dailypioneer.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

## See you!

Installing CCTVs in schools has positive and negative sides; both of these impact children

ome parents and teachers are challenging the Delhi Government's decision to install CCTV cameras in classrooms in Government-run schools. The Delhi High Court has admitted a petition in this regard and sought the Government's response. How can the Government do that without first obtaining consent, the petition asks? The argument is the presence of cameras and storage of the data on private servers violates the right to privacy. Constant monitoring can have a psychological impact on children. There is the danger of the data being abused through morphing and illegally disseminating it on social media. The parents have a case. Irrespective of the pros and cons of surveillance, they cannot be installed without consent; and not in classrooms even with consent. That is a clear breach of privacy. In the West, the Government would have been sued by now. Having said that, how can the Government, the police, or the school authorities ensure the safety and security of children in schools? Remember the Ryan International School incident in Gurugram in 2017? A seven-year-old student was found with deep neck injuries outside a washroom. He died later. The police found most of the school's CCTV cameras were not functional. The same year, a student shot dead a classmate in a Haryana edu-



cational institute over an argument. How the countrymade pistol made it into the classroom remains a mystery. In 2020, a 14-year-old student shot dead a classmate in Bulandshahr over who will sit where. Again, the weapon was not detected in time to prevent the crime.

The proponents of CCTV cameras give the example of the United States where schools have turned into surveillance zones because of unchecked violence. Mass shootings on campuses are common and, currently, around 80 per cent of public schools use security cameras, hoping to detect weapons and altercations and bullying. Cameras are now a critical tool for safety and behav-

iour management in American schools and for holding students accountable for their behaviour. In the UK, research shows students in schools, including in classrooms and toilets, are as frequently monitored as passengers at airports or inmates in prisons, raising a host of privacy issues. Not just in Delhi, internationally too, the Governments and schools are taking to surveillance technology at a frenetic pace. The CCTV system is beneficial, but not at the cost of privacy. The authorities can install these systems around the perimeters of schools, complement them with metal detectors and frisking to ensure that weapons and other dangerous materials are not brought in. Tighter procedures to break up fights can help nip any violence in the bud. However, they cannot be installed in classrooms and toilets where students reasonably expect privacy. The cameras disrupt the classroom atmosphere and signal mistrust of students. They impact relationships. And they fail to detect bad intent. When they intrude into the privacy of a classroom, they are self-defeating and a poor substitute for a trusting atmosphere that marks a healthy classroom.



Vehicles tread slowly on a snow-covered road during snowfall, in Srinagar

## **Happy campaign**

Manipur is a welcome change from the rut of in-your-face, loud electoral canvassing

ar from the madding crowd of the Hindi belt and hinterland, Manipur seems like an oasis of responsibility, sense and sensibility. This reference is specific to the Assembly election, circa 2022. There are problems peculiar to the region. Despite the Government's much-touted 'Jal Jeevan Mission' and its 'success', Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen beating his own "double-engine" Government's drum for providing over 3 lakh households with tap water. In 2022! The State had put a 2022 deadline for 100 per cent potable drinking water supply. There certainly is improvement as compared to



the Congress regime, but the crisis is still far from resolved. Despite efforts to fast-track piped water supply, many areas even in Imphal face an acute water crisis. Modi held a rally in Chief Minister N Biren Singh's constituency Heingang and urged people to again vote in the "double-engine" Government. Earlier on Friday last, Union Minister Smriti Irani was seen shaking a leg with traditional dancers of Manipur during her visit to Imphal where she had gone canvassing for BJP candidate Okram Henry Singh.

However, the Congress, which is seeking a return to office, is not amused. On the earlier Congress Government's "tardiness" in providing piped drinking

water, former Chief Minister Ibobi Singh said Modi was lying. "He's is not God...They were in power only for five years and we were for 15. We had set up the infrastructure," the three-time Chief Minister said. The hustle-bustle, name-calling and dirty campaign trails apart, election campaigning in Manipur is not noisy and replete with expletives or loud language, but — quite interestingly — a ritual where all parties hoist and worship their flags. Assembly elections are scheduled in Manipur on February 28 and March 5, ahead of which candidates are holding such ceremonies. Once associated with royalty, the flag-hoisting ceremony, firal chingkhatpa, has become an essential part of the campaign. Candidates hold the ceremony at home on an auspicious date and time. There's a prayer by the local priest and blessings by community elders. People from around the place come bearing rice, sweets, fruits, vegetables, flowers and gifts in general and place them under the flagpole. "We bring whatever we cultivate in our fields for the candidate we support. We give this to show the candidate that we will vote for him," explained a local. Pleasingly different, isn't it?

# The blame doesn't lie only with Putin MANAVENDRA PRASAD



Russia has its own reasons to do what looks like an 'attack on a sovereign country' to western nations, especially the United States

he end of a conflict often sows the seeds of the next one. If the cause of World War II in a large part can be attributed to the terms of the settlement of the First World War, one of the causes of the Cold War can be traced to the settlement of World War II. The geopolitical changes as a result of the end of the Cold War have led to many other conflicts in the last three decades. The unravelling of communism across the globe, as well as the collapse of Yugoslavia, to the current cri-

sis in Ukraine are apt examples.
We have yet another
Ukraine crisis at hand. The western media, which tends to dominate global narratives, has painted Russia the intransigent bully. The health of Russia's democracy and Putin's grip on power has buttressed this image. With the Chinese backing the Russian volubly, this perspective has got shriller. However, it is important to understand why Russia is threatening Ukraine, and what has forced its hand. Ukraine's sovereignty is

suspect; historically, it has rarely been an independent nation. Ukraine literally means, in Slavic, borderland — a geographical area. It has been 'the ukraine' for Russia for all of its known history. Russia and Ukraine both trace their roots back to the first East Slavic State, Kievan Rus, which stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea. With deep social and cultural ties with Russia, for Russians, it is also about undoing the injustices of the collapse of the Soviet Union — large parts of the Russian territory and many Russians under the control of an untrustworthy Ukrainian Government. Russia's ancient connections with Ukraine make it a special relationship. For Russian nationalists, Ukraine is an immutable component of the greater Russian empire.

In Russia's eyes, the West romised back in the 1990s that Nato would expand "not Ukraine will not join NATO. an inch to the east" but did so

Estonia, three former Soviet republics, are part of Nato; so are many more Warsaw Pact countries. There are combat units in Poland and the Baltic republics while missiles are deployed in countries such as Poland and Romania. Now Ukraine too desires to join Nato.

Western powers seek to protect Ukraine's right to seek membership in Nato, which must have an "open door" to any country that wishes to join. However, this ever-encroaching American strategy to encircle Russia with hostile Governments has serious concerns for Russia's security. With the Warsaw Pact long dead, it is not out of place to ask, What is the sine qua non for Russia has long been

uncomfortable Ukraine's approach towards European institutions, both Nato and the European Union. It is a fair demand for the West to guarantee that For Russia, it is a make-oranyway. Latvia, Lithuania and break situation and it can't



THE WEST PROMISED BACK IN THE 1990S THAT NATO WOULD **EXPAND 'NOT AN** INCH TO THE EAST' **BUT DID SO** ANYWAY. LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA, THREE FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS, ARE PART OF NATO; SO ARE MANY MORE COUNTRIES

Ukraine permanently. That will be one more from amongst the former Soviet Union republics.

Russia is seeking an immediate resolution to its concerns but the West is focused on discussions and negotiations which could potentially drag on for years while more countries are pried from Russia's immediate sphere of influence and enhancing its security concerns. Additionally, given Russia's self-image and a strong sense of independence, it does realise that its partnership with China is only tactical and is unlikely to be an alliance of equals. Both Russia and China are happy using each other only to meet their immediate geopolitical goals. Russia will look to maintain its strategic elbowroom and it wants to avoid getting into too tight an embrace with China; hence the need to achieve its goals on priority with the current support from the Chinese.

Therefore, it is unfair to

help intervening lest it loses blame Putin for the current crisis that confronts Europe and the rest of the world. It is time that the West made a note of the big picture the real threat to the US-led world order comes from China, and not Russia. Fortunately, there is recognition of this view amongst large sections of the European leadership — it was not long ago that the German Navy Chief resigned for his remarks

about Russia and China. Russia, quite like India, will always want to exercise strategic autonomy. It is unlikely to kowtow to any other power however larger it might be. For the West, it is time to get over the 'Putin the bully' fixation and reassess its actions. The West should make a genuine effort to address Russia's concerns.

Maybe it is time to abolish Nato altogether and look to create an Indo- Pacific Treaty Organisation, with

(The writer works as a public policy consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

### LETTERS TO T

#### **RUSSIA IS PLAYING HARDBALL**

PTI

— This refers to 'Eyeball to eyeball' (February 23). The Russian invasion of Ukraine started as President Vladimir Putin ordered forces into two separatist regions of eastern Ukraine. But it appeared to dash the slim hopes of averting a major conflict in Europe that could cause massive casualties, energy shortages on the continent and economic chaos around the globe. The move paved the way to provide them military support, antagonising western leaders who regard such a move as a breach of world order, and set off a frenzied scramble by the US and others to respond. Putin has justified his decision in a far-reaching, pre-recorded speech blaming Nato for the current crisis and calling the US-led alliance an existential threat to Russia.

Sweeping through more than a century of history, he painted today's Ukraine as a modern construct that is inextricably linked to Russia. The Russian State media released images of people in Donetsk launching fireworks, waving large Russian flags and playing Russia's national anthem. Over 14,000 people have been killed since the conflict erupted in the eastern industrial heartland in 2014, shortly after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. With this Russian invasion of Ukraine, the matters are leading to a disastrous situation.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

WATCH THE KIDS ON THE ROAD Sir — A shocking 11,160 children under the age of 14 died in road accidents in 2019. Motor vehicle accidents were the top reason. On an average, 31 children were killed due to road mishaps in 2020. These numbers point to the vulnerability of children to road accidents. The Centre, by amending Rule 138 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, has taken the right step towards securing the lives of children. By this amendment, the Road Ministry has made it mandatory for all children between nine months and four years of age to sport helmets and safety

harnesses on two-wheelers. Violating the rule will attract a fine of

### Don't shirk work, please



ith election duties assigned to them, personnel from most of the Government departments and agencies were apparently on a long 'hiatus'. But now, with the dust kicked up over the February 14 Assembly polls having finally settled down, it is time they returned to their desks and commenced work in earnest. The services of departments which concern themselves with the upkeep of public utility services round the year will be the most sought after, with many complaints from the public going unattend-

for three months. To be operationalised in one year, this time modification has the potential to be a game changer if propery enforced. Children riding pillion with their parents, sandwiched in between or standing in front of either parent at the wheel, is disturbing as well as dangerous. By the new rule, it is possible that there will only be two people on the two wheelers thereby adding additional safety, and comfort, mechanism. It is another matter that pothole-filled roads and drunk drivers equally endanger the lives of children. Rash driving near schools is another matter of concern.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

#### TREAT MANUAL SCAVENGERS HUMANELY

Sir — This refers to 'Manual scavengers fall prey to unscrupulous contractors' (February 22). Four manual scavengers dying of asphyxiation while on duty in Saidabad Kondapur and Manikonda in Hyderabad is most deplorable and distressing. Incidents of death of manual scavengers are

ed due to the shortage of staff. While it becomes difficult to understand how a whole State can come to a complete standstill with the impending elections, it is all the more consternating to know that the maintenance of a skeleton crew to man the day-to-day activities of respective departments is a managerial art that most of the senior Government

officers appear to be ignorant about No task can be so demanding that the Government thinks nothing of pulling out personnel from key departments catering to public services and posting them elsewhere. It is as if the administration doesn't have 'contingency' plans in place to provide for such situations. Just as the 'exigencies of duty' necessitates a change of roster for various Government agencies and departments, like for elections; providing faultless and timely public services should also invite the same sort of keenness from the authorities concerned.

Pachu Menon | Margao

₹1000 and cancellation of driving licence rampant and on the rise. Gullible and naive manual scavengers are falling prey to fraudulent and unscrupulous contractors and accepting tenders. They are losing their lives while cleaning human faeces from under the manholes. It is not fair and justified to know that due to fund crunch, the Telangana Government has not yet provided compensation to manual scavengers victims of many bereaved families.

The State must cut down on sanctioning crores of funds on the eve of festivals in order to avoid fund crunch. Sewerscleaning machines have already been launched and introduced in Telangana. The State Government must provide scavenging cleaning sewers machines to the GHMC authority to replace and mitigate the manual scavengers and speed up the process to provide compensation to the rest of manual scavengers victims of the bereaved families.

Zubair Khan | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

Manipur is the gateway to trade and business with the rest of east Asia.



**Prime Minister** Narendra Modi



additional movement of US forces to strengthen our Baltic allies.

**US President** - Joe Biden

I'm not a star kid who will decide to do films...and it will happen.



I'm not exposing



But if it recurs, I will not hold back. Indian cricketer

— Wriddhiman Saha

The small leaders of BJP tell small lies; those bigger tell bigger lies.



Akhilesh Yadav

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### **FIRST COLUMN MOVING TOWARDS** A TECH EVOLUTION

Its continuity differentiates it from similar past revolutions



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

hroughout the recorded history of mankind there are several references to technological marvels and breakthroughs. They have come in the form of building constructions, weapons of warfare and handling of water flows and other sectors. The evidences are available from the Andes area, river valleys such as Tigris/Euphrates, Indus/Ganga valleys, Yangtze region in China, and more. Be it the Inca civilization, that of Mayas or the pyramids of Egypt and some of the temple construction of India, there are many technological marvels. Some of them are yet waiting to be fully deciphered and replicated. The unique thing about all these experiences is — most of them could not replicate themselves. There was no continuum, and it came to an abrupt break, illustratively, some of the features of the temple architecture of peninsular India are still fully



to be explained. How pyramids came up without any current evidence of cranes remains a marvel. How these powerful intellectual traditions came to an end is not known. But come to an end they did. The unique feature of the present'industrial revolution' is not only that it has a technological base, but that revolution is a continuing one and has gradually spread to more areas. It is not only continuous and continuing but the spread is widening and deepening. That is what makes the technological dimension of this industrial revolution a unique one in human history. It is this continuity which puts it apart from other previous similar revolutions.

The current technological revolution has often meant faster, diversified and constant upgradation. It has given rise to a whole new technological expertise. An expertise which is required not only at the operational end where more and more people are covered but at other levels also. The other levels includean almost continuous upgradation of technology. Of this the mobile phone is a good example. Ever so frequently the technology reaches a new threshold and the commands become more complex or simple. Whichever way one looks at it, they keep changing. This simply means a technology is impacting every day lives on a continuous basis almost everywhere. Its not possible to ignore this process because even in one of its manifestations, let us say digitalization - it has been adopted as a governance instrument almost universally. This leaves the technologically uneducated individual - not just in the backwaters, but in wilderness. The person can attract clauses of legislation in areas wherethey may not simply have the ability or opportunity to adopt or even upgrade. It may need access to resources, of purchasing aninstrument for which he may not even have the capacity. When daily living is itself a matter of doubt because of deficiency of resources available at an individual level, what can be the hope of looking at technological literacy let alone technological upgradation? Concerns like the one outlined above need to be flagged as important policy concerns which need to be built into the larger civil society debate. Excessive admiration and observation of technological compulsions may create divisions in the society which will ultimately need a response. However, it is much better to anticipate them. The above narrative amongst other thing, intends to focus on an urgent need of policy realignment and refocussing of the protocols of progress. This has become more evident during the pandemic. There are several country cases from South Sudan to Singapore which needed to be addressed, analyzed and understood to ensure that the evolutionary growth of the human race continues to be more uniform and manageable. That is a much-needed requirement of the future for which action must begin now.

(The writer is an acclaimed management consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

# BJP must review its Govt's hijab response



If the party really wants to empower Muslim women, it has to do a lot more: Ending violence and discrimination, besides educating their girls

he BJP's top leadership needs to review whether the way their Karnataka leaders have han-dled the hijab row is working in or against the party interest. At the first glance, it seems the party has lost some of the goodwill it had earned among Muslim women by passing the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights) on Marriage Act, popularly known as the triple talaq law, two and a half years ago. Even the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, the organisation of Muslim women that had collaborated with the Modi government on the drafting of the law and full-throatedly supported it—ignoring the ridicule of the liberals and leftists for not seeing the party's real design which was not to protect the Muslim woman from the tyranny of instant divorce but to pull down a part of the fort of the Muslim Personal Law—has expressed opposition to the Karnataka government's decision to bar hijab-wearing girls from classrooms.

With what tremendous enthusiasm had the BJP rushed the triple talaq law through Parliament! It did it, it claimed, for the empowerment of the Muslim woman!! Prime Minister Modi tweeted: "Parliament abolishes Triple Talaq...This is a victory for gender justice...It will contribute to women empowerment... India rejoices today!'

And truly, after the law was passed, the number of complaints from Muslim women about instant divorce amazingly dropped. But the BJP's Muslim women's empowerment juggernaut stopped there. It needed to go beyond. The abolition of triple talaq deterred the Muslim husband from divorcing his wife by uttering 'Talaq' thrice, but it did not stop him from getting rid of her by uttering 'Talaq' once and not revoking it over a waiting period of three menstrual cycles or three lunar months. The man was still on top. The woman could do nothing. She would be out of his home and out of his life after 90 days. He would pay her the sum of 'mahr' (dower he agreed to pay her at the time of marriage) and the maintenance for 90 days. That was all he needed to do under the law

The BJP should have taken one more step after abolishing triple talaq: they should have scrapped the Muslim Divorce) Act 1986 which was passed by the Rajiv Gandhi government to override the Supreme Court judgement in the Shah Bano case entitling the divorced Muslim wife to maintenance from her husband not only for the waiting period but for life. The BJP had alleged that Rajiv Gandhi had succumbed to the pressures of the mullahs. It stirred up Hindu passions to build up a huge support for itself on the issue. But even though it has been in power at the Centre for eight years it has not done away with



BE ENCOURAGED TO LIVE IN AREAS THAT HAVE A MIXED POPULATION. THIS CAN HAPPEN ONLY WHEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND **GOVERNMENTS** DO NOT ALLOW COMMUNAL **VIOLENCE AND** DISCRIMINATION **AGAINST** MUSLIMS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE



empower Muslim women, it has to do much more. For, a lifelong maintenance would not be enough for the empowerment of the Muslim woman. Even if she gets an alimony she would have to live as a dependant of someone as the money would never be adequate. This is the scenario that discourages even Hindu women from getting out of an oppressive marriage though they are entitled to an alimony under law. In either case—whether the husband divorces her or she divorces her husband—the woman should be independent to live with dignity

and honour.

the law. It must do it, so that

divorced Muslim women can be

entitled to a lifelong mainte-

And if the BJP really wants to

Recent trends among younger generations have shown that freedom of choice is propelled by economic independence. The wife is marital relationship because she earns a livelihood for herself. Female employment is the key to female empowerment. And female employment will not happen without female education. And female education will not happen without females going to schools and colleges. So if the BJP is truly for the empowerment of Muslim women it should not stop hijab-wearing Muslim girls

Hijab is a matter of choice. Some Muslim girls wear it, others do not. Even if the BJP sees it as regressive and forced upon girls by their parents or the Wahabists, it should allow it. The party must realize that by barring hijabwearing girls it would be driving them deeper into the clutches of the forces of orthodoxy. The BJP's aim should be to help more and more Muslim women get an education. Education will lead to employment. Employment will take them to workplaces. Exposure to a dynamic multicultural environment will make them think anew about orthodox cultural practices. It could lead to more Muslim women marrying men from other faiths-something that is not happening in India—adding to the growing number of religion-neutral or bireligious couples and contributing to making of a culturally healthy India, as it happened in the US.

average Muslim girl lives in an environment of fear and insecurity. Rape of Muslim women has been common in riots. Communal violence and prejudices have driven large numbers of Muslims to live in ghettos. In the ghettos, patriarchy and orthodoxy rule. Men, deriving power from the responsibility to protect the women of their families, force them to wear a burga and hijab when going out so as to not

attract attention towards themselves. They are not very keen to give girls higher education, for that would mean going far from the ghetto and more risks to their security, leaving aside the risk of their 'corruption' with

'modern, western' education. The Muslim ghettos must melt. Muslims must be encouraged to live in mixed neighbourhoods. This can happen only when political parties and governments do not allow communal violence and discrimination against Muslims to take place in the future.

If that happens, Muslim girls will feel more secure, and more and more of them will come to schools and colleges. Even their parents would have no ground to deny them education. Even if they want their girls to go to their classes in hijab, so be it. At least the girls will be getting an education. That will open new doors for ferent worlds.

Will the BJP ensure there is no violence and discrimination against Muslims? Will it give full attention to the education of Muslim girls and leave the future of hijab to the future? Or does it want people to believe that its responsibility for Muslim women's empowerment ended with the triple talaq law? Are we asking too much of the Great Saviour of Muslim women?



### entering classrooms.

WE HAVE NEVER SAID THERE WOULD BE A FRONT WITHOUT THE CONGRESS. WE SAID TO TAKE THE CONGRESS ALONG. — SHIV SENA LEADER **SANJAY RAUT** 





THESE LEADERS HAD COME TOGETHER AGAINST BJP BEFORE THE 2019 POLLS, **BUT NOTHING HAPPENED.** -BJP LEADER **DEVENDRA FADNAVIS** 

# UP: Can an ascendant SP alter 2024 course?

#### The BJP in its run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections should not be taken lightly. It has organisational and official strength to bounce back

(The writer is an independent journalist and author. The views

expressed are personal.)

rith four phases over, elections in Uttar Pradesh go east, including to Amethi, Ayodhya and Gorakhpur. Here, the number of migrant workers who were subject to ill-treatment during the first Covid-19 lockdown is the highest. The mood here is influenced by rising prices in the region which already has high poverty levels. They have been hit hard periodically, since after

demonetisation. Stray cattle are a big issue. In the east like in the west, they devastate farm produce and there is no way to resolve the problem. The "gomata" approach of the BJP after coming to power has swelled the number of its adherents. Linguistic minorities like Bengalis and Punjabis are



SHIVAJI **SARKAR** 

(The writer is a senior

journalist. The views

expressed are personal.)

largely with BJP.

Efforts of Congress leaders Priyanka Vadra and Rahul Gandhi to activate the party and a possible tacit tie-up with Samajwadi Party can make some difference to opposition numbers. BSP has committed Jatav votes but other Dalits may split among various parties. The Hathras gang-rape may realign Valmikis who previously voted BJP. So may the Unnao incident in central UP.

Since 1985, UP has not reelected an incumbent government. If Yogi succeeds, he would establish a record. The BJP is not leaving it to chance. Even during the 2017 poll, the state did not see so many top BIP leaders campaigning. Home Minister Amit Shah is continuously visiting and is said to be the organising mas-



termind. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed over 11 large rallies till the beginning of poll process attacking communal "samajwadis": The latter say that is keeping SP in the reckoning.

Deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya contesting from Sirathu near Allahabad faces hostile crowds like many ministers like Shrikant Sharma, Suresh Rana, Sangeet Som did in the west. Sharma was jeered all over in Mathura. Former central min-

village in Bulandhshahr for not visiting the area. In all these incidents, the BJP workers remained silent spectators. The SP-RLD had interestingly pitted Pallavi Patel, a good orator and sister of central minister Anupriya Patel of Apna Dal against Maurya cornering him in the constituency.

Would it change the voting pattern that was overwhelmingly for BJP in 2017? Not easy to say. The state government's reported diktat to government employees to coerce postal ballot voters has reportedly caused consternation. There is a SP-RLD push back on account of this while the poll staff have now distanced themselves from parties.

The BJP is surprised the SP-RLD combine accuses BJP

ister Mahesh Sharma was way SP leader Akhilesh Yadav of grabbing credit for proshooed away from his home has done his social engineer-grammes introduced by SP ing. This has led the SP penetrate hitherto impregnable areas like Agra and Mathura in the west and as well as many other seats in the east. The diligent home work of Akhilesh helps SP by having a wider alliance with caste groups beyond the Yadavs and his family members. Similarly, Jayant Chaudhury had spread his wings and emerged as more than a Jat leader in the aftermath of the year-long kisan agitation. The kisan, Gujar, Pal, Baghel, Prajapati and similar smaller caste groups have moved to SP-

There is also a conflict between who takes the credit for welfare programmes. The

and other governments.

Even Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself is said to be roughing it up in Gorakhpur as his disciple Sunil Singh on SP ticket faces him and alleged erstwhile area strongman, Hari Shankar

Tiwari's family opposes. But there is a different aspect to it all. The minority votes lining up for SP-RLD have fuelled a counter-passion for BJP's Hindutva, Ayodhya, Vindhyavasini temples and Krishna temple in Mathura. An Aligarh professor Sajjad saidbefore the polls in western UP that overtly the minorities, Jats and farmer groups appear to be together but they may not be as cohe-

sive as they appear. The voting

may not reflect the overt mood.

RSS leader Indresh Kumar has activated his Rashtriya Muslim Manch to woo the Christians and Muslim minorities groups in Lucknow, Amroha, Moradabad and now even in Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur to help BJP. Kumar has had separate meetings with Muslim women and his media coordinator Shahid Sayeed says the women who benefited by triple talaq annulment are with BJP. Many also have received PM Awas houses.

The BJP in its run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections should not be taken lightly. It has organizational and official strength to bounce back. Its leaders say that even with lesser seats than 325 now it would have enough to be in power.

# Biden, Putin signal bigger confrontation ahead over Ukraine

AP MOSCOW

¬he East-West faceoff over Ukraine escalated dramatically Tuesday, with Russian authorising lawmakers President Vladimir Putin to use military force outside his country and US President Ioe Biden and European leaders responding by slapping sanctions on Russian oligarchs and banks. Both leaders signaled that an even bigger confronta-tion could lie ahead. Putin has yet to unleash force of 150,000 troops massed on three sides of Ukraine, while Biden held back on even tougher sanctions that could cause economic turmoil for Russia but said they would go ahead if there is further aggression.

The measures, accompa nied by repositioning of additional US troops to Baltic nations on NATO's eastern flank bordering Russia, came as Russian forces rolled into rebelafter Putin said he was recognising independence of separatist regions in defiance of US and European demands. Speaking at White House, Biden said the Kremlin flagrantly violated international law in what he called "beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine."

Putin went further. "We are united in our support of Ukraine," Biden said. "We are united in our opposition to Russian aggression." When it comes to Russian claims of a justification or pretext for an invasion, Biden said, "None of us should be fooled. None of us will be fooled. There is no jus-

Hopes for a diplomatic resolution to threat of invasion, which US officials have for weeks portrayed as all but inevitable, appeared to evapo-US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken cancelled plans for a Thursday meeting in Geneva with his Russian counterpart, saying it would not be productive and that Russia's actions indicated Moscow was not serious about a peaceful path to resolving crisis.

Western nations sought to present a united front, with more than two dozen European Union members unanimously agreeing to levy their own initial set of sanctions against Russian officials. Germany also said it was halting process of certifying Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia - a lucrative deal long sought by Moscow but criticised by US for increasenergy. The US, meanwhile, moved to cut off Russia's government from Western finance, sanctioning two of its banks and blocking it from trading in its debt on American and European markets. The administration's actions hit civilian leaders in Russia's leadership hierarchy and two Russian banks considered especially close to Kremlin and Russia's military, with more than \$80 billion in assets. That includes

assets under U.S. Jurisdictions. Biden, though, did hold back some of broadest and toughest of financial penalties contemplated by U.S., including sanctions that would reinforce hold that Germany put on any start-up of Nord Stream 2 pipeline; an export ban that would deny Russia U.S. High-tech for its industries and military; and sweeping bans that could cripple Russia's ability to do business with the rest of the world.

### **UN** chief: Biggest global peace crisis in recent years

United Nations: The United Nations chief says the world is facing "the biggest global peace and security crisis in recent years" and is calling Russia's declaration of the "so-called 'independence" of separatist areas in eastern Ukraine a violation of its territorial integrity and accusing Moscow of "the perversion of the concept of peacekeeping." Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters Tuesday he is proud of the achievements of the UN's far-flung peacekeepers, but when troops of one country enter the territory of another country without its consent as Russian forces have done, "they are not impartial peacekeep ers -- they are not peacekeepers at all" as Moscow has called them. Guterres said Russia's unilateral actions also "conflict" with the UN Charter and are "a death blow to the Minsk Agreements' aimed at restoring peace to eastern Ukraine. He called "at this critical moment" for an immediate cease-fire, de-escalation, 'restraint and reason," and a halt to actions or statements "that would take this dangerous situation over the brink.

#### China blasts America over approach to Ukraine crisis

China is accusing the United States of creating "fear and panic" over the crisis in Ukraine. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Wednesday that China opposes new sanctions on Russia, reiterating a longstanding Chinese position.She said the U.S. Was fueling tensions by providing weapons to Kyiv in response to Russia's large troop deployment around Ukraine's borders and fears of an invasion.China-Russia ties have grown closer under Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin at talks in Beijing earlier this month. The two sides issued a joint statement backing Moscow's opposition to a NĂTO expansion in former Soviet republics and buttressing China's claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan - key foreign policy issues for Beijing and Moscow.

### Ukraine's some military reservists

AP MOSCOW

Ukraine's president on Tuesday night announced he was calling up some of the country's military reservists as the threat of a Russian invasion grew, but he added there was no need for a full military mobilisation.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address to the nation his decree applies only to those assigned to the so-called operational reserve, which is typically activated during ongoing hostilities, and covers "a special period of time," without clarifying what that means. He said: "Today there is no need for a full mobilisation. We need to quickly add additional staff to the Ukrainian army and other military formations."There are about 250,000 troops in Ukraine's armed forces, and some 140,000 reservists.

### **More sanctions** leader calls up against Russia 'in the locker', warns UK

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK Government on Wednesday warned that it stands ready to escalate sanctions on Russia in the event of an invasion of Ukraine and can "keep turning up the heat' by targeting more banks, wealthy individuals and key companies if President Vladimir Putin refuses to pull back troops from eastern Ukraine.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the sanctions announced in Parliament by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday against five Russian banks and three Russian billionaires linked with President Putin were "severe" but that further measures are being kept "in the locker". Britain has joined international allies to take action after Putin ordered troops to be sent into two Ukrainian regions held by Russian-backed separatists.

"The sanctions we're putting in place are coordinated with the United States, they're coordinated with Europe, to make sure that Vladimir Putin cannot play divide and rule amongst the allies," said Truss.
"We've shown we are

united and we will escalate those sanctions in the event of a full invasion into Ukraine," she said. German Chancellor Olaf

Scholz has announced the decision to halt approval of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea, a mega EURO 10 billion project which had been expected to allow Russia to sell more natural gas directly to Europe.

Besides, other European Union (EU) countries and US have also imposed a range of sanctions, including restricting the Russian state from financing its debt from their banks and banning their own companies from trading with the two rebel-held regions.

### Europe braces for further strife as Ukraine crisis escalates

Sd/- Chief Engineer

 $E \\ urope braced for further confrontation on Wednesday and \\ Ukraine urged its citizens to leave Russia after tensions escalat$ ed dramatically when Russia's leader got the OK to use military force outside his country and the West responded with a raft of sanctions. Hopes for a diplomatic way out of a new devastating war appeared all but sunk as the U.S. And key European allies accused Moscow

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (PHE) KASHMIR

NEW ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SILK FACTORY ROAD RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR

TELE: 0194-2311832. TELE FAX: 0194-2311835, E-Mail: kmrphed@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-I

Subject:- Conduction of Soil Bearing Capacity test at different locations of Kashmir Valley

by making 01 No bore holes up to 10 meters depth or up to refusal whichever comes first and collecting undisturbed/disturbed soil samples for various laboratory examinations viz

Consistency Tests Gradation (Sieve Analysis) Shear Parameters Density & Moisture

Reference:-This office e-NIT No: CE/PHE/KMR/ JSD/128 of 2021-22 Dated:- 17-02-2023

"Scanned copy of valid Registration certificate for consultants having requisite testing facilit

instead of

Scanned copy of tender fee of Rs 1000/= in the shape of Treasury Receipt/e-transfe

instead of

"Scanned copy of tender fee of Rs 500/= in the shape of Treasury Receipt/e-transfer (Scree

issued under endorsement No: CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/41382-417 Date: 17-02-2022

"Scanned copy of valid Registration certificate for soil bearing capacity tests"

shot of transaction) in favor of FA/CAO Jal Shakti PHE Department Kashmi

Screen shot of transaction) in favor of FA/CAO Jal Shakti PHE Department Kashm

on Tuesday of crossing a red line in rolling over Ukraine's border into separatist regions - with several calling it an invasion. The top U.S. Diplomat canceled a meeting with his Russian counterpart; Kyiv recalled its ambassador and considered breaking all diplomatic ties with Moscow; dozens of nations further squeezed Russian oligarchs and banks out of international markets; Germany halted a lucrative pipeline deal; and the U.S. Repositioned additional troops to NATO's eastern flank bordering Russia.

After weeks of trying to project calm, Ukrainian authorities signaled increasing concern on Wednesday. The Foreign Ministry advised against travel to Russia and recommended anyone there leave immediately, saying Moscow's "aggression" could lead to a significant reduction in consular services. The head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council called for a nationwide state of emergency - subject to parliamen-

Oleksiy Danilov said it will be up to regional authorities to determine which measures to apply, but they could include additional protection for public facilities, restrictions on traffic, and additional transport and document checks. Already, the threat of war has shredded Ukraine's economy and raised the specter of massive casualties, energy shortages across Europe and global economic chaos. Even as conflict took a new, dangerous turn, leaders warned it could still get worse. Russian President Vladimir Putin has vet to unleash the force of 150,000 troops massed on three sides of Ukraine, while U.S. President Joe Biden held back on even tougher sanctions that could cause economic turmoil for Russia but said they would go ahead if there is further aggression.

### **South Korea's** presidential race puts misogyny in spotlight

As South Korea enters a bit-ter presidential race, Hong Hee-jin is one of the many young women who feel that country's politics has become dominated by discrimination against women, even outright misogyny."Women are being treated like they don't even have voting rights," the 27year-old office worker in capital, Seoul, said.

For years, South Korean women have made slow but steady progress in the workplace as they confronted an entrenched culture of male chauvinism and harassment.

But this extremely tight presidential race, which culminates March 9, has exposed fragility of what's been won. Top conservative candidate Yoon Suk Yeol and his liberal rival Lee Jae-myung - both men above 55 - are fighting for what they see as a "male" vote crucial for victory. They have increasingly

focused their messages on young men who decry gender equality policies and loss of traditional privileges in a hypercompetitive market."Politicians are taking

easy path," Hong said. "Instead of coming up with real policies to solve problems facing young people, they are fanning gender conflicts, telling men in their 20s that their difficulties stem from women receiving too many The tensions can be seen

on streets. Hundreds of women have marched in protest against the "election of misogyny." Small but vocal groups of anti-feminist men have staged rallies in response. Divisive gender politics has grown as South Korea deals with a fast-aging population, a plummeting birth rate, soaring personal debt, a decaying job market and stark inequality. There's also growing nuclear threat from North Korea and fears of being squeezed in confrontation

### not deposition sought in defamation suit

Donald Trump's DNA,

**AP** ■ NEW YORK

Alawyer for a woman who accused former President Donald Trump of raping her in the mid-1990s and then filed a defamation lawsuit against him said Tuesday she will not seek to depose Trump prior to trial because it would cause unnecessary delay, but she added that a DNA sample was still being sought.

Attorney Roberta Kaplan first made the revelation in Manhattan federal court during a pretrial hearing before explaining the decision to reporters outside court as her client, E. Jean Carroll, stood by her side. A deposition, Kaplan said, would "inevitably result in an inordinate amount of delay. 'We want case to go forward,' she said. Attorney Alina Habba. who represented Trump at hearing, said outside court that she had not heard

before that Carroll's lawyers

did not want a deposition, a proceeding in which lawyers in civil cases question likely witnesses under oath prior to trial."It's surprising," Habba said. As for a DNA sample, Habba said: "None has been demanded."Kaplan, though, said the DNA

after the case was first filed in state court and the demand still exists after it was moved to federal court. The Associated Press gen-

sample had been requested

erally does not identify people alleging sexual assault, but Carroll has consented to being named in the media. She told reporters outside court that she was looking forward to

the trial on behalf of all women "who have been grabbed and groped, assaulted and raped by men in power and are silenced.""And we are looking to bring justice, at least in this one case, against a powerful man," she said.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) [KASHMIR] **Engineering Complex Rajbagh Srinagar, 190001**

NIT No.: 130 of 2021-22 Dated: 21/02/2022

Subject: Notice inviting tenders for engagement/ selection of 'System Integrator Contractor for Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance (for 03 years) of the IoT based Smart Water Measurement & Monitoring System for all the rural villages in [Kashmir

Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) [Kashmir], (hereinafter called "Client") on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, invites bids online on e-Procurement portal of J&K Govt. i.e., www.jktenders.gov.in, in three cover system (Technical & Financial covers) from the interested and eligible bidders, in accordance with this RFP document, for engagement selection of the System Integrator/ contractor for the Project work, as detailed below, or

Name of Project/ work :- Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance (for 03 years) of the IoT based Smart Water Measurement & Monitoring System for all the rural villages in [Kashmir] province of UT of

Earnest Money Deposit :- 300.00 lacs Cost of Bid Document :- Rs. 25000/-Completion/ Implementation Period :- 12 Months extendable by 06 Months plus 36

Please read in Appendix I, PQC 1 as:

for conducting soil bearing capacity test'

Please read in Appendix I, PQC 2 as:

No. DIPK-18481/21 Dated: 21-02-2022

Months of O&M. The scope of the work is spread over all the rural villages covering 10 districts in entire

province of [Kashmir]. Interested and eligible bidders (either as a 'sole bidder' or a 'consortium') may submit thei

complete proposals, both technical and financial, as prescribed in the Tender Document online on www.jktenders.gov.in along with receipt of requisite Tender Document Cost and the requisite Earnest Money Deposit. The Cost of Tender Document is non-refundable and is to be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of FA/ CAO o/o Chief Enginee Jal Shakti (PHE) [Kashmir] to the JK bank A/C No. 0005040500047728 Branch RESIDENCY ROAD SRINAGAR IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR.The Earnest Money Deposit shall be submitted in the form of Demand Draft, Fixed Deposit Receipt, Bank Guarantee, favouring FA/CAO, o/o Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) [Kashmir] payable at

The bidders registered as MSMEs shall be provided tender document free of cost and shall also be exempted from payment of Earnest Money, subject to furnishing of relevant valid certificate for claiming such exemption.

The detailed RFP/ NIT document containing eligibility criteria, detailed scope of work

method of selection/ engagement and the formats for submission of online bids is attached with this NIT and can be accessed on e-procurement portal viz; www.jktenders.gov.in. The

bids are invited as per the schedule of critical dates as below.

1. Date of publishing of e-NIT online: - 22/02/2022 9:00 A.M.

Document download start Date & Time: -22/02/2022,10:00 AM
 Last Date for receipt of requests for clarifications: -03/03/2022, 05:00 PM
 Pre-Bid meeting Date & Time: -04/03/2022, 11:30 AM

5. Bid Submission Start Date & Time: -15/03/2022, 10:00 AM 6. Bid Submission End Date & Time: -22/03/2022, 06:00 PM

7. Last Date for receipt of true copies of BG's/EMD: - 23/03/2022, 04:00 PM

8. Technical Bid Opening Date & Time: -24/03/2022,03:00 PM 9. Financial Bid Opening Date & Time: - To be intimated separately

1. The firm will be selected under Least Cost Selection (LCS) procedure described in the

2. Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the RFP Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) [Kashmir].

3. Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) [Kashmir] will not be responsible for any delay in

submission of bid due to any reason

4. Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) [Kashmir] reserves the right to accept or reject any or al

proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason there for and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any

5. For any queries related to bid submission, please contact on kmrphed@gmail.com No. DIPK-18523/21 Dated: 22-02-2022 Sd/- Chief Engineer

liability to the affected applicants

### Climate activists try to block access to 3 German airports

limate activists on Wednesday blocked roads leading to Germany's three biggest airports, gluing themselves to the ground before police arrived. Members of the group Uprising of the Last Generation said they wanted to disrupt cargo and passenger traffic at the airports in Frankfurt, Munich and Berlin. The group has demanded that the government take measures to end food waste. It argues that throwing away vast amounts of usable food contributes to hunger and climate change. Past protests involving the blocking of roads and ports have drawn criticism from officials across the political spectrum."Blocking high-ways or even airports isn't helpful, it's wrong," Environment Minister Steffi Lemke told weekly Die Zeit. It quoted Lemke saying that anger over Germany's failure to meet its emissions targets didn't justify such protests.

American Navy: 4 die in Hawaii

crash of contractor's helicopter

he US Navy said Tuesday four people have

■ died in the crash of a contractor's heli-

copter on the Hawaii island of Kauai.The

Pacific Missile Range Facility said the aircraft

crashed on the north side of the installation

shortly after 10 a.M. There were no survivors.

The names of those killed were not yet avail-

Corp. In support of a training operation, the

missile range facility said in a news release. The National Transportation Safety Board said in

a tweet the agency is investigating the crash

The Sikorsky S-61N was built between 1959 and 1980 by Sikorsky Aircraft, which is

now part of Lockheed Martin. It was designed

Historical Archives website. The helicopters

were optimized for use over water, for exam-

also used by all branches of the U.S. Military.

of the Sikorsky S-61N helicopter.

The helicopter was being flown by Croman

**AP** ■ HONOLULU

### Omani FM in Tehran as nuclear talks in Vienna continue

**AP** ■ TEHRAN

Oman's Foreign Minister arrived in Tehran on Wednesday for talks with his Iranian counterpart, state media reported, as nuclear talks between Iran and world powers continue in Vienna. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian welcomed Sayyid Badr Albusaidi upon his arrival, with the visit scheduled to focus on bilateral and international affairs, the IRNA news agency said. Oman has often acted as a go-between to help facilitate back-door diplomacy between the US and Iran, sometimes involving the release of prisoners.

#### Syria reports Israeli missile attack near Golan Heights

**AP** DAMASCUS

rael fired several surface-to-**L**surface missiles toward Syrian military positions in the country's south early Wednesday causing material damage, state media report-ed.State TV quoted an unnamed Syrian military official as saying that the missiles were fired from Syria's Israelioccupied Golan Heights, and struck areas around the nearby town of Quneitra. It added that the attack that occurred shortly after midnight caused to carry a substantial freight or passenger payload. One version was built to carry up to 30 passengers, according to the Igor I. Sikorsky material damage but no casualties.The attack came nearly a week after Syrian state meḋia reported a similar Israeli missile attack on an area south of ple to support oil rig operations. Versions were the capital Damascus that also

caused no casualties.

#### | Pak PM Imran Khan leaves for Russia on maiden visit, aims to reset bilateral ties

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday left for Russia on a two-day visit - the first by a Pakistani premier in over two decades – during which he will hold talks with President Vladimir Putin to reset bilateral ties and expand cooperation in energy sector.

Khan's visit to Moscow will take place hours after US President Joe Biden and other Western governments imposed tough economic sanctions on Russia for sending its military into parts of eastern Ukraine. Khan is accompanied by a highlevel delegation comprising

Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood and National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf.

According to Foreign Office, the bilateral summit between Prime Minister Khan and President Putin will be highlight of visit. "During Summit meeting, the two leaders will review entire array of bilateral relations including energy cooperation.
They will also have a wide-

ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues, including Islamophobia and situation in Afghanistan," the FO said. It said visit of Prime Minister

will contribute to further deepening of multifaceted Pakistan-Russia bilateral relationship and enhancement of mutual cooperation in diverse fields. In a tweet, the Russian Foreign Office said that President Putin and Prime Minister Khan will hold talks in Moscow on Thursday.

### UN ends Iraq's requirement to pay victims of Kuwait invasion

AP UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council I voted unanimously on Tuesday to end Iraq's requirement to compensate victims of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, with Baghdad having paid out more than USD 50 billion to 1.5 million claimants.Michael Gaffey, Ireland's ambassador to UN in Geneva and president of governing board of UN Compensation Commission, whose fund decided on claims, told council after vote that body's work was historic "for United Nations and for effective multilateralism. ""Ultimately, 2.7 million claims were submitted to commission seeking \$352 billion in compensation," he said, and \$52.4 billion awarded to 1.5 million claimants "represents

approximately 15% of total claims."Under a Security Council resolution adopted in April 1991 after a US-led coalition routed Saddam Hussein's forces and liberated Kuwait in first Gulf War, Iraq was required to set aside a percentage of proceeds from its oil exports for fund to compensate victims of conflict. That share was 5% in 2013, when council voted to end the possible military enforcement of several requirements imposed on Iraq after invasion in recognition of improved relations with Kuwait. The level stood at 3% for Iraq's final payment on Jan. 13.Gaffey said governing council adopted its final decision Saturday declaring that Iraq's government fulfilled its international obligations to compensate for losses.

### World making Mekong river its dumping ground

 $M_{\rm is\ choking\ the\ world's}^{\rm ounting\ marine\ pollution}$ oceans and rivers, especially in Southeast Asia - and it'll only get worse unless something changes. Countries along Mekong River have become world's dumping ground for waste. Rubbish is finding its way into water - killing marine animals and clogging up animals with plastic that are later eaten by humans. And it only got worse during the pandemic. COVID-19 has caused plastic waste to surge in Southeast Asia, particularly with widespread disposal of single-use face marks, takenway food contain masks, takeaway food containers, and packaging from online shopping. In April 2020, Bangkok's daily average of 2,115

waste per day grew to more than 3,400 tonnes a day. Lockdowns halted more than 80 per cent of recycling value chain in Southeast Asian countries such as Philippines and Vietnam. Even before pandemic-driven waste, only nine percent of all plastic packaging was recycled and about 12 percent is incinerated. The remaining 79 per cent accumulates in landfills, dumps and natural environment. A lot of this waste, particularly plastic, finds its way into our oceans. As much as 13 million tonnes of plastic enters our oceans annually, according to a 2018 study by UN Environment. Marine plastic pollution is a major transboundary problem, costing an estimated USD 2.5

tonnes of single-use plastics

# **India Ratings pegs FY22 GDP** growth at 8.6 % on data revision

India Ratings has revised downwards its GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 to 8.6 per cent from the consensus 9.2 per cent projected earlier.

The National Statistical Organisation (NSO), which has forecast 9.2 per cent real GDP growth for the year, will release the second advance estimate of national income on Monday.

According to an India Ratings analysis, NSO is likely to peg the FY22 real gross domestic product growth at Rs 147.2 lakh crore. This translates into a GDP growth rate of 8.6 per cent, down from 9.2 per cent forecast in the first advance estimate released on January 7, 2022.

The major reason for the likely downward revision is the upward revision of FY21 GDP to Rs 135.6 lakh crore in the first revised estimate of national income for FY21, which was released on January 31, 2022, the agency said.

As a result, GDP for FY21 is improved to (-) 6.6 per cent from the provisional estimate of (-)7.3 per cent released on May 31, 2021. Besides this, the second revised estimate of national income for FY20 stood at 3.7 per cent compared to 4 per cent projected earlier while the third estimate retained FY19 growth at 6.5 per cent.

The growth rates of GDP drivers from the demand side namely private final consumption expenditure, government's final consumption expenditure, gross fixed capital formation have undergone a change



due to these revisions, and quarterly GDP growth numbers are also expected to

As FY20 growth has been revised downwards, the agency now expects GDP growth of all the four quarters of FY20 to be lower than present estimates. This would mean a likely upward revision of FY21 and downward revision of FY22 quarterly GDP numbers.

Accordingly, the agency estimates Q1 and Q2 of FY22 may decline by 90-110 basis points than estimated earlier and the Q3 nd Q4 may come in at 5.6 per cent and 5.1 per cent, respectively, down from 6 per cent and 5.7 per cent estimated earlier.

It takes about three years to finalise the final GDP data for a year. It starts with the up with the second advance estimate, then provisional estimate, the first revised estimate, second revised estimate and finally the third revised estimate, Sunil Kumar Sinha of the agency said.

A glance at the revision of GDP data from the initial to the final estimate for fiscal years 2015 to 2020 suggests that the magnitude of the revisions has been gen

The direction in revisions though sugests that generally during the years of stable/upswing in GDP growth, advance estimate tends to underestimate the actual GDP growth rate and it does just the opposite during the years of downswing, Sinha

### Sensex, Nifty fall for 6th day amid lingering Ukraine crisis

Market gauges Sensex and Nifty extended their losing streak to the sixth session on Wednesday as lingering Ukraine crisis continued to dent investor sentiment.

The Sensex closed 68.62 points or 0.12 per cent lower at 57,232.06 and the Nifty ended 28.95 points or 0.12 per cent down at 17,063.25.

For better part of session, both indices traded in the positive territory tracking mostly higher Asian peers as investors hoped that Western sanctions on Russia after Moscow's troop movements near Ukraine bor der might soften Vladimir Putin defiant tone and leave some room to avoid war.

The Sensex breadth was equally divided between gains

NTPC, L&T, Nestle and ICICI Bank shares dropped the most on the index.

'As global markets turned positive, domestic indices opened the day on a positive note, however, witnessed high volatility and succumbed to selling pressure to close the day in favour of bears. The impact of geopolitical uncertainties and soaring fuel costs will con-

Wall Street on Tuesday after tinue to keep markets across the globe highly volatile. Russia sent forces into Broader markets outperformed Ukraine's eastern regions, escabenchmark indices while on lating tensions.

Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said. Sectorally, BSE energy, capital goods and oil&gas fell as much as 0.54 per cent. Of the 19 sectoral indices, five closed

the sectoral front, realty stocks

attracted buyers," Vinod Nair,

Broader largecap index closed with losses, while smallcap and midcap indices regis-

On the forex market front, the rupee closed 23 paise higher at 74.61 against the US dollar. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses closed mostly higher, hoping that war in Ukraine can be avoided after the US, Japan and European powers imposed sanctions on Russia

Stocks closed lower on

Vodafone in talks to sell 5% stake in Indus Towers to Bharti Airtel: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

British telecom giant Vodafone is in discussions to sell around five per cent stake in Indus Towers to Bharti Airtel, according to industry sources.

When contacted, Vodafone refused to comment on the Vodafone currently matter. holds about 28 per cent in Indus Towers.

The industry sources said that Vodafone is in talks to sell its about five per cent stake in Indus Towers, valued at over Rs 3,300 crore, to Bharti Airtel. The proceeds will be pumped into the Indian entity Vodafone

Indus Towers Limited, forprovides passive telecom inframanages telecom towers and

The company's portfolio of over 1,84,748 telecom towers makes it one of the largest tower infrastructure providers in the country with presence in all 22 telecom circles. Indus Towers caters to all wireless telecommunication service

### Survival of bidi industry at stake, urgent need for slashing tax: Stakeholders

**PTI** ■ KOLKATA

 $R^{
m epresentatives}$  of the bidi industry and labour organisations have called for an immediate reduction of tax on the indigenous smoke, contending that high taxes threatened the survival of the sector.

During a virtual round table organised by the All India Bidi Industry Federation, they also deliberated upon the need for alternative job opportunities for the workers engaged in production of bidi, small hand-rolled cigarettes made of tobacco wrapped in leaves.

"The bidi industry has been playing a big role in generating revenue and employment in some of the remotest regions of India. However, the existing exorbitant rate of 28 per cent GST due to beedis being deemed a demerit good, is having a major negative impact on the lives of the workers, especially women from rural and tribal areas," said Arjun Khanna, joint secretary of the fed-

understand that continuing to tax the industry at this rate may put one of Manch.

VS Motor Company on

The company said it has achieved

Wednesday said it has crossed

the 10-lakh two-wheeler export

milestone in the current financial

this significant export milestone in

a financial year for the first

The key exports include the Apache series, HLX series, Raider

TVS Motor crosses 10L two-wheeler

export mark in current fiscal

India's oldest indigenous industries at the risk of being wiped out. This will result in massive unemployment and socio-economic ramifications, which will push millions below the poverty line," he said.

The steep tax rate has led to a surge in manufacturing moving from the organised to the unorganised sector, the representatives said, adding, the GST Council had rationalised tax on handmade products to 5 per cent and that can be extended to the bidi industry as well. "The production of bidis in India

provides employment to nearly one crore people. A majority of the workers are women who live in Naxalite areas, where no alternative job opportunities exist.

'This is why it is becoming critical to reduce the tax on bidi or else the industry will face the risk of being counter-productive to the government's 'Make in India' initiative. This is because it may lead to an infiltration and dependency on cheap Chinese cigarettes," added Dr Convenor, Swadeshi Jagran

"The one million export mark is

significant milestone for TVS

Motor Company. This further under-

scores our path towards being a glob-

al player in personal mobility solu-

tions," TVS Motor Company Joint

Managing Director Sudarshan Venu

The company is excited to continue building on this positive momentum as it expands into newer

geographies with attractive products

and new first in segment, technolo-

gy offerings, he added.

## Sify Technologies in top gear to tap renewable energy for data centres

Provider of solutions to information and communication technology Sify Technologies Limited has a plan to tap over 400 MW of renewable energy for its data centre business over the next four years, according to an official The Chennai-based Nasdaq-

listed company on Wednesday announced its partnership with Vibrant Energy Holdings Ltd, a subsidiary of Blue Leaf Energy Asia Pte Ltd, and a portfolio company of Macquarie's Green Investment According to Chief Financial

Officer of Sify M P Vijay Kumar, the partnership with Vibrant Energy was to set up a 231 MW of solar and



wind energy capacity to power Sify unit in Mumbai.

Recently, Sify signed power urchase agreements (PPAs) with Vibrant Energy Holdings. The PPAs are for a total of 231 MW of solar and wind energy capacity to power latest data centres of Sify. Of the 231 MW, PPA for 67 MW was recently implemented.

The partnership is the first step in a clear roadmap for the com-

oany to minimise its dependence on fossil fuels to power the data centre business. At the same time, Sify is investing in solar and wind energy to deliver most of the power required for its flagship data centres in Mumbai.

"In Mumbai, we have data centres in three locations," he told On the partnership with

Vibrant Energy, he said,"As far as the nature of partnership is concerned, it is on a captive power purchase model where the entire facility will be set up by Macquarie GIG-

sponsored Vibrant Energy."
Vibrant Energy would be setting up the facility, design, construct and operate the facility and make available the power for Sify Technologies for use, he said.

To a query whether the partnership was specific to the data centre in Mumbai, Kumar clarified that discussions were on with the Vibrant Energy for other data cen-"We are scheduled to create

Russian President Vladimir

Putin recognised the indepen-

dence of two rebel-held regions

of Ukraine, raising fears of an

imminent full-scale invasion.

Blinken on Tuesday cancelled

his scheduled meeting with

his Russian counterpart Sergei

Lavrov later this week in protest

against what he said was the

beginning of Russia's invasion

last steady at USD 96.74 a bar-

rel, having eased off Tuesday's

investors continued their sell-

ing spree in Indian markets as

they offloaded shares worth Rs

3,245.52 crore on a net basis on

Tuesday, as per exchange data.

top of USD 99.50.

Brent crude futures were

Foreign institutional

US Secretary of State Tony

about 200 MW of capacity of data centres in the next four years. Some projects are underway with already having commenced

while some are scheduled to commence," Kumar said.

According to him, the exposure of Sify to data centre business is spread across six cities with 11 centres. "We are on track to add another 200 MW capacity in the next four years and spread across multiple cities and beyond," he

Chairman of Sify Raju Vegesna said, "With the constantly expanding need for world-class data centre facilities to meet the burgeoning data-centric transformation of businesses, we believe that investing in clean energy sources to fuel this transformation is imperative." "Sify is proud to be doing its part to help our customers become a part of this clean energy future", he

CEO of Vibrant Energy Srini Viswanathan said, "Vibrant is honoured to partner with Sify on their journey to build sustainable data

continuing its work with Sify to support them in their 100 per cent renewable energy goal," he said.

### BharatPe sacks co-founder's wife Madhuri Jain Grover for financial irregularities

 $B^{\text{haratPe has sacked its head of controls}}_{\text{Madhuri Jain Grover - wife of embat-}}$ tled co-founder Ashneer Grover - for alleged financial irregularities ranging from producing fake invoices to billing the company for personal beauty treatment

While a company spokesperson confirmed the termination, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said BharatPe has cancelled all the 244 unvested and 56 vested employee stock options

Madhuri Grover did not immediately respond to an email sent seeking her comments.

She was last month sent on leave within days of her husband announcing a three-month leave of absence following allegations of using abusive language against Kotak Mahindra Bank staff and fraudulent practices. Ashneer Grover has denied all allegations.

Alvarez and Marsal to conduct a gover-

Sources said that review found that Madhuri Grover allegedly shared confidential information that was used by her father and brother to create and raise invoices on the company under the camouflage of certain third

She is alleged to have billed the company for personal expenses including those towards 'laser genesis and clearlift' face treatment in April 2021 as well as televisions (a LED TV and a Sony Bravia 65-inch) and a fridge for her residence.

Other allegations against her include US and Dubai trip for family members being charged back to the company, inflated purchases of marketing and branding products, fake quotes procured from friendly parties and salary of main and personal staff being paid from the **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltid. That Mr. Mammeet Singh & Mrs. Monika Chadha are the Claiming owners of Entire Second Floor without roof rights "sad floor", Built on Property bearing No. R-29, area measuring 225 S av, dys, Village-Taterpur, Najafgarh Road, Rajburi Garden, New Delhi; "the said property" by virtue of SMC dated 22.12.2021 issued by SDM, after demise of their mother Mrs. Bailpeet Kaur, who was the owner of Terrace of First Floor with roof rights of the said property by virtue of sale deed dated 30.06.2011 registration No. 15114, All persons are hereby informed

NOTICE is hereby given that Rajinder Kumar Khurana (25% Share), Umesh Malik (25% Share), Satish Kumar (25% Share) and Sangeeta Arora as legal heir of Ravinder Kumar Arora for 25% Share Selleris' wook claims to be owner/sand in possession of Entire Upper Ground Floor of Property no. 41/13, (Block 41, Plot no. 13), measuring area 199.99 sq. yds ie 167.22 sq. mtrs situated in the Layout Plan of Krishan Nagar, in the area of Village Gionotili, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110051. (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed dated 10.102.018 bbaring Doc No. 8485 in book no.1 vol.no. 1638 on pages 154-155 claded 11.102.16 SR IV b Vivek Whar and Ralinquishment Deed Dated 03.09.2020 executed by Shelly Arora & Shubham Arora in layor of Sangees Arora (Logal hers of Late Ravinder Kumar Arora) for 25% Share of Late Ravinder Kumar Arora in the entire Property bearing Doc No. 4449 in book no.1 vol no. 2209 on pages 81-85 dieded 04.09.2020 SR IV 8 Vivek Vihar has agreed to sell the said property to Jogesh Wadhwa, Samridhi Wadhwa & Narreder Wadhwa, Samridhi Wadhwa & Narreder Wadhwa, Samridhi Wadhwa & Narreder Wadhwa has agreed craetae mortgage of the said Property in favour of our clients, IDFC First Bank Limited, having its office at 110. All persons's Institution's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, euin of the said Property or any part thereof. by way of said, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, furst, inherlatone, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address menticone below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons on services and claims, if any, of such person or persons on services and claims, if any, of such person or persons on services. outcurrentary evolence at the accuses mentioned below white 10 days from the date hereof, falling which the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate) or Diwan & Company LLP (Advocates & Solicitors) H No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D.-19

#### PARADIP PORT TRUST PARADIP-754142, ODISHA, INDIA ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT SAGARMALA

body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India

NO.AD/RSC-11-21/10/06(Pt.)/469 Dtd. 21.02.2022 (Advertisement)

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up 01 (One) post of Horticulture Consultant, on contract basis in Paradip Port

Trust. For further details, visit our website www.paradipport.gov.in. Sr. Asst. Secretary

**SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY** 

PPT/PR/151/21-22

Dt. 23.02.2022

#### **Ford recalls 330,000 Mustangs** to fix rear camera problem

and Neo series, it added.

**AP** DETROIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ord is recalling more than}}_{330,000\,\text{Mustangs in the US}}$ to fix backup camera displays that go blank or become distorted. The recall covers cars from

the 2015 to 2017 model years. Documents posted Wednesday by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say the rear view camera wiring can

become loose or damaged,

causing the problem. Ford said in documents that it knows of two minor crashes and no injuries due to

the problem. Dealers will repair the deck lid wiring harness possibly replace the camera. Notices will be mailed to owners starting

They'll get another letter when parts are ready.

MakeMyTrip's fintech arm TripMoney partners with SBM Bank India to launch global credit card



PTI MUMBAI

 $M^{
m akeMyTrip}$  on Wednesday said its fintech arm TripMoney has joined hands with SBM Bank India to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card, TripMoney Global Card. This value-loaded credit

card offers various advanced money management features relieving overseas travellers from paying mark-up on forex (foreign exchange) conversions, MakeMyTrip said in a statement.

The TripMoney Global Card, powered by Visa, can be

used across 150 countries and is targeted at international travellers, including students, it

MakeMyTrip co-founder and Group CEO Rajesh Magow said, "We continue to actively invest in building products and solutions to elevate the overall travelling experience of our customers.

He added that TripMoney's Global Card empowers Indian travellers with a safe, transparent and swift money management solution that can be accessed anytime and from

#### J&K POLICE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU 0191-2561578 (0), 0191-254780 (F), email-sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in **LOOK OUT NOTICE**

As intimated by SHO P/S Bus Stand Jammu, that one unidentified male dead body was recovered from near Trikuta Complex B.C Road Jammu on 13.02.2022. Accordingly, an Inquest proceeding U/S 174 Cr. PC vide DDR No. 20 dated 13.02.2022 was initiated at P/S Bus Stand, Jammu and dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMC, Jammu.

For the identification of unidentified male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers. Description Roll:-

Name of deceased: Unknown male

Age: 33/35 years Height: Approx. 5ft 6 Inch

Colour: Fair Beard: Black Dress: Black Colour Jaket, Black T. Shirt

and Blue colour jeans pent Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-1. DPO, Jammu: 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578

2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in 3. PCR Jammu: 0191-2542000 4. SP City North: 0191-2547038

5. SDPO City North: 0191-2566621 Sd/- For Sr. Superintendent of Police No: DIP/J-13178/21 Dated: 18.02.2021

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Akhanda Loktantrik Party (name of the party). The office of the party is

located at Main Road Near State Bank, C/o Sahetarin Bai Sahu, Ward Lavan, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Chhattisgarh-493526 (full address). This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951-Names/address of the officebearers Party are as follows:

President/Chairman: Vinod Pate 9753419758

General Secretary/Secretary Omprakash Ratre 9165681358 Treasurer: Khamhan Yadaw

If any one has any objection to the registration of Akhanda Loktantrik Party (name of the proposed Party) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary Party) Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 11000 / within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Society Ltd. Plot No.5A, Sector-11

Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

2007, it is to inform publicly that Smt. Rita angwan member of Raman Vihar CGHS

Ltd (Regd No.872) has resigned from the

membership of the society, Further she

has been issued account payee cheques for her deposited amount. If anyone has

Secretary-Raman Vihar CGHS Ltd.

pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules



General public is hereby informed that this Boy Namely: Gufran, S/o Abdul Sattar, R/o Amit Ka Makan, G. No. 4 Raghuwar Pura-1, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Color Jeans

And Yellow Shirt and Sandal in Feet, has been missing since 27.12.2021 from the area of P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 89 A, dated 11.01.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Boy kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi Ph. 011-22072761,7065036024 DP/735/SHD/2022

Idea, they added.

merly Bharti Infratel Limited, structure. It deploys, owns and communication structures for various mobile operators.

providers in India.

centre solutions in the market".

"Vibrant is looking forward to

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE ublic is hereby informed that Smt. Suman Khurana W/o Modan Khurana Ground Floor without roof rights. & Second Floor with roof right, portion of property No- D/62, measuring 73.1/3 Sq. Yards, out of khasro

n the abadi of Gali No. 8. Shankar Nagar Extn., Illaga Shahdara, Delhi by virtue of Notarized GPA dated 27.05.1985 and she is intending to sell the same to Mr bhishek, to be financed by Clix Housing Finance Ltd. property, then contact the undersigned within 15 days rom date of this notice on below address, failing which

Mob.: +91-8076188328

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the work "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Comprehensive Maintenance (for 5 years) of HVAC System, & UVGI in Airborne Respiratory Infection Isolation Ward, Emergency Department, and Operation Theatre in PPT Hospital, Paradip Port on Turn-Key Basis" Estimated cost: Rs. 1,09,49,015.00 (Rupees one crore nine lakh forty-nine thousand fifteen) only. Last date & time of submission of bid: dt. 15.03.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Chief Medical Officer

any objections he/she may file his/he bjection in the office of the RCS Parliament street, New Delhi or at Society office i.e, Plot No.5A, Sector-11, Dwarka New Delhi-110075 within 07 days from the date of publication of the public notice

> PPT/PR/150/21-22 Dt. 23/2/2022

Learn how to eat

Ayush Food Festival

National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur is organising AYUSH Expo and Aahar Mela between March 11 and 13

at Shilpgram, Jawahar Kala Kendra. The

fair will be inaugurated by the Union

Minister of AYUSH. This information

was shared by Prof-Sanjeev Sharma, vice-chancellor at the unveiling of

The purpose of this programme is to make the public aware of the prop-

Ayush Expo and Food Festival.

healthy food at

# **ASSAM RIFLES CONDUCTS INAUGURAL HALF MARATHON**

the inaugural Half Marathon as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations on February 20 at the headquarters of Directorate General Assam Rifles, Laitkor Garrison, Shillong. The Half Marathon commemorates 75 years of India and the glorious history of its people, culture, achievements and also promotes

the Fit India Movement.

The Half Marathon was flagged off by Lt Gen KC Panchanathan, AVSM, GOC 101 Area and saw enthusiastic participation of more than 678 serving personnel and families of Assam Rifles, 101 Area, 58 GTC, ARC, Eastern Air Command and CRPF. The run was divided into three categories of 21 km, 10 km and 2.5 km each having its age group. 97 people participated in the 21 km half Marathon, 245 in the 10 km run and 332 in the 2.5 km Run for Fun.

Gp Capt Saikat stood first in the over 51 years, 21 km category while Col EJ Simeon stood second and Lt Gen PC Nair, AVSM, YSM, DG Assam Rifles won the joint third prize with Commander Venkatesh (retd). The other winners of the 21 km category as per age group included rifleman Bharat Bhushan, rifleman Devender and sub/SKT Bishan Singh winning the first, second and second prizes in the 41 to 50 age category. Rifleman SU Visle, rifleman Kosting Dhar and rifleman Francis Zimik won

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWER-

GRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under the Ministry

of Power, Government of

India, signed an MoU with the

National Foundation for

Communal Harmony (NFCH)

for providing financial assistance for the education of

1,632 violence-affected stu-

dents from Assam, Manipur

and Chhattisgarh under CSR.

The MoU was signed by Shri

V K Singh, Director (Personnel), POWERGRID and Shri Manoj Pant,

Secretary, NFCH.





the first, second and third prizes in the 31 to 40 age group. Rifleman Marvin, rifleman Rajesh Singh and Rifleman Anil Gurung stood first, second and third in the 18 to 30 age group category of 21 km.

The fervour and spirit of the marathon were boosted further with the participation of ladies and children in all categories. Children barely five-years-old

POWERGRID signs MoU with NFCH for the

autonomous organisation

under the Ministry of Home

Affairs. Under 'Assist', POWER-

GRID is providing financial

assistance of ₹2.55 crore for one

year during 2021-22, for the

education of students rendered

orphan or destitute due to

education of violence-affected children

participated and completed the 2.5 km category showing their enthusiasm and resolve.

The Assam Rifles are popularly known as the 'Sentinels of the North East' has committed itself towards peace and development of the North East. It has carried out numerous activities promoting 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Fit India Movement' in the past. This not only brings cohesiveness in the region but also plays a pivotal role towards Nation Building and Unity, thereby making it a "Force that Binds the North East".

Assam Rifles also thanked the sponsors of the event including SBI Bank, YES Bank and the event organisers Cyruns Sports

death or permanent incapaci-

tation of either or both the par-

ents or the main bread-earner

during communal, caste, ethnic

POWERGRID has sup

ported NFCH from 2014-15

for the education of children.

Last year, 1,260 children were

supported out of which 1,048

children are studying in class-

es up to class 12th, 185 are pur-

suing their Graduation and

Post-graduation courses and

27 children are pursuing pro-fessional courses like

MBBS/MD, B. Tech, MBA,

BCA, B, Ed., BALLB and more.

or terrorist violence.



NTPC achieves another milestone, surpasses the highest annual generation of previous years

NTPC has recorded a generation of 314.89 billion units up to February 18, surpassing the maximum annual generation of 314 BU achieved in 2020-21. Last year, the generation was 270.0 BU till February 18.

NTPC Korba (2600 MW) in Chattisgarh is the top-performing thermal power plant in India with a 94.32 per cent Plant Load Factor between April '21 to January '22, as per the data published by Central Electricity Authority. The total installed capacity of NTPC is 67,832.30 MW having 23 coal-based, seven gas-based, one Hydro, 19 renewable energy

### Draw of lots for JJ dwellers of Bhumiheen Camp

Tn line with the Government of **⊥**India's aim to provide affordable housing to the urban poor by the year 2022, the Delhi Development Authority has conducted a draw of lots to allot 679 flats under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in favour of eligible JJ dwellers of Bhumiheen Camp.

Out of 2,700 households of Bhumiheen Camp, eligibility in respect of 679 households has been decided in respect of JJ dwellers whose documents were complete. The draw of lots was conducted on February 17 for the allotment. Allotment-cum-demand letters to successful/eligible households of Bhumiheen Camp shall be issued shortly.

For the remaining households, deficiency letters have been issued requesting them to submit the requisite documents. As and when the



documents are submitted, a draw in their favour will also be conducted.

All eligible JJ dwellers are to be shifted to built-up EWS flats at Pocket A-14, Kalkaji Extension constructed by DDA on In-house Design and build a model on payment of ₹1,42,000 (including ₹30,000/- as maintenance charges for five years).



food and how to prepare food, what is the right way to eat. People would be made aware of improving their health, diet method, improving immunity. The brochure of the AYUSH EXPO & Food Festival was unveiled by Professor Sharma. The poster of the dialogue programme on March 8, Women's Day, was also released. The themes in the program to be organised at Jawahar Kala Kendra will be:

To reach the innovations in AYUSH to the general public.
"To tell about the food and diet of

the general public through live lecture, talk show by Ayurveda and AYUSH

experts.
"In this, it will be told that at what time to eat which type of food, its maximum qualities can be a friend to us. Which fruit should be eaten whole/raw, the juice of which fruit should be used. Which food cannot be eaten with milk or curd? Such doubts will be resolved by the well known Ayurveda dieticians of the country.

Delicious food prepared by Ayurveda dieticians will be available to the general public for three days and the methods of preparing them will also be taught by the experts to the housewives and the public.

Cultural programmes and street plays will also be organized for three

Various competitions for the general public and lucky draws will be organ-

50 stalls will be available daily, which will

### **Regional Board Meeting of ESIC Gujarat held**

The 89th Regional Board Meeting ■ of ESIC Gujarat was held on February 16 under the chairmanship of Shri Brijeshkumar Merja, Hon'ble Minister, Labour, Skill Development & Employment at Saraswati Hall, Swarnim Sankul-2, Sachivalay, Gandhinagar. While addressing the Regional Board Meeting, Shri Merja, appreciated that the second meeting of Regional Board has been conducted within four months. He informed the gathering that he met Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Minister of Labour & Employment, Govt of India and apprised him about the recommendations of the Regional Board during the last meeting and assured to take positive decisions.

Professor Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab

University, Chandigarh has appointed Professor

Sudhir Kumar, Department of Evening Studies -

Multi-Disciplinary Research Centre as Dean

Research, Panjab

Professor Sudhir

eminent scholar in

the field of. Indian

University

Chandigarh

Kumar is an

Literary and

Comparative

Literature in

Translation,

Cultural Studies

Literature and Indian

Shri Ghishulal B Kalal, Member of ESI Corporation & Regional Board, Dr Nitin Vora, Member of ESI

Corporation & Regional Board, Smt. Anju Sharma, I A S (Principal Secretary, Department of Labour & Employment, Govt. of Gujarat, Smt. P. Bharathi, IAS, Labour Commissioner,

Gujarat, Shri Ratnesh Kumar Gautam, Additional Commissioner & Regional Director, ESIC Gujarat attended the The board recommended opening

a new hospital at Sanand (District-Ahmedabad) to provide effective medical care to the workers. It was also recommended to upgrade ESIS Hospital Rajkot and ESIC Hospital Vapi to 100 bedded Superspeciality Hospitals. Shri Ratnesh Kumar Gautam,

Additional Commissioner & Regional Director, Gujarat informed that ESIC has taken several steps to enhance/improve the medical facilities and medical infrastructure in consultation with ESIC HQ and with active support from Govt. of Gujarat.

#### NTPC FELICITATED



NTPC has been felicitated at the 'New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy' event which was organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD

NTPC received the award from Shri R K Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy and Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, Union Minister of State of New and Renewable Energy, and Chemicals & Fertilisers.

#### In this AYUSH EXPO 50 stalls on Ayush's Startup, Ayush Pharmaceutical companies will be able to showcase their products for one sale. Manufacture and sale of live food by

be manufactured by Ayush dieticians.



### Webinar for pensioners above 75 years of age

 $T^{
m he\ Ministry\ of\ Personnel,\ PG\ \&\ Pensions}$  — under the leadership of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh — has taken concrete steps to ensure ease of living for Pensioners. The Department has been leveraging technology and has been conducting online Pension Adalats, using end-to-end digital portal Bhavishya to generate electronic Pension Payment Orders now being made available to pensioners in their Digi Locker, a series of simplified options for giving Digital Life Certificate by Pensioners have also been brought, in the latest being Face Authentication technique of LC from an android phone.

The Department, earlier on January 5 and 25, had conducted a Pensioners' outreach programme and today conducted its third such programme under the chairmanship of secretary Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Shri V. Srinivas along with registered Pensioners' Associations and pensioners. The webinar was a knowledge dissemination exercise for pensioners aged 75 years and above in South India. The presentations covered topics such as Family Pension, eligibility, additional pension on achieving age-related milestones, issues about the commutation of pension and getting a Digital Life Certificate from an Android phone.

In the question-answer session, the pensioners requested secretary Pensions to enhance the amount of Fixed Medical Allowance, to facilitate a greater number of CGHS dispensaries, to restore commuted pension after 12 years instead of 15 years, grant additional pension from age 65 years onward instead of 80 years. Among those who interacted were Shri N. Shanmughom from Trivandrum, Dr Selvanayagam from Kanyakumari, Professor G Ramallingam and Shri Vishwanatha from Puducherry, Shri Girish Kanagotagi from Bangalore among others. The pensioners expressed their happiness with the newly launched

Face Authentication App for giving Digital Life Certificate. Secretary Pension Shri V Srinivas took note of the demands and stated that the Department would regularly have such interactive sessions for pensioners and family pensioners. He appreciated the feedback of the pensioners that the recent reforms made by the DoPPW were working well on the ground level especially the face authentication app launched recently. Joint secretary Pension, Shri Sanjiv Narain Mathur informed that DoPPW had roped in the IPPB (India Post & Payment Bank) and that doorstep service for life certificate is also available for giving Jeevan Pramaan. A similar facility has been extended in 100 cities through the consortium of 12 Public Sector Banks. This was in addition to the Video KYC-enabled method of Life Certification which has been started.

### POWERGRID, NR-I handed over Medical Equipment to District Hospital, Faridabad

Translation Studies, and has more than 90 research

field of Comparative Literature, he was awarded the

prestigious K K Birla Foundation Fellowship and

delivered seminars at the University of London UK.

Govt of India recently nominated him as a Member

of the Academic Committee of Dr B R Ambedkar

publications to his credit. For his contribution to the

Chri A K Mishra, Executive ODirector, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, (Northern Region-I) handed over Medical Equipment to Dr Harish Arya, Dy. CMO, District Hospital, Faridabad on February 18 under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

This will augment the overall health infrastructure of the district. Protection from Covid-19 and general well-being along with the safety and health of the citizens are the top priority of the Government. ABG portable machines help in rapid analysis of blood parameters of critical patients both in Intensive Care



Units and Trauma Centres facilitating attending doctors to quickly ascertain the condition of patients and prescribe a course of treatment.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Mishra apprised the Haryana State officials about the various CSR assistance provided to district authorities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Haryana State officials appreciated the efforts of POWER-GRID in these times of need.

On behalf of District Hospital, Faridabad Dr Harish Arya, Dy. ĈMO, Faridabad and Sh. Gaurav Singh, Additional CEO from Haryana State CSR Trust were handed over the first phase of equipment. Shri R P Sinha, . Sr GM (HR), Shri Vinayak Chauhan, Sr GM (CSR), Shri Vinod Prakash Baxla, Sr DGM (HR) from POWER-GRID and other senior officials were also present at the event.

#### ASSAM RIFLES CONDUCTS TRAINING OF YOUTH IN NAGALAND

Zunheboto Battalion of Assam Rifles Conducted a training and coaching jobs at Zunheboto town, Zunheboto district, Nagaland from January 25 to February 19 under OP Sadbhavana.

The training aimed to guide the youth aspiring to join govt jobs specifically the Indian Armed Forces and give them insight into selection procedures and its preparation. Before the commencement of training, Zunheboto Battalion reached out to remote villages with paucity of resources and identified the 40 potential candidates, both girls and boys, who needed coaching and guidance. During the three weeks of training, the candidates were provided with free stationery, competition study material and accommodation.



The training was focused on imparting practical knowledge of various aspects of competitive exams including documentation, written exam and personal interview. Civil administrative, students and their parents expressed gratitude and appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for guiding and channelising youth energy in a positive

### NDMC organising 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'

 $N^{\text{ew Delhi Municipal Council}}_{(\text{NDMC}) \text{ in its Council}}$  Meeting presided over by Shri Dharmendra in the presence of vice-chairperson-NDMC, Shri Satish Upadhyay, MLA & Member NDMC, Shri Virender Singh Kadiyan apart from other NDMC Members Shri Kuljeet Singh Chahal, Shri Girish Sachdeva & Smt Vishakha Sailanim, Shri Vikas Anand, commissioner-EDMC and Ms Isha Khosla, secretary-NDMC, considered and approved the citizen-centric and employee welfare proposals in the agenda items placed before it:-1. GREEN ENERGY FOR GREEN

NDMC intends to make itself

a complete Green Energy consumer. It has embarked upon an ambitious journey of shifting to a 100 per cent renewable energy municipal body of the Country. NDMC has decided to not renew its power purchase agreement with thermal power generating stations and is taking up fresh purchase agreements with only renewable power providers.

Council Accordingly, proved the procurement of 142 MW hydropower from Teesta-III on a medium-term basis i.e. for three years and further extendable up to two years through M/s PTC India Ltd. @ ₹5.03/kWh (inclusive



transmission charges and losses). . SMART ROADS

NDMC is developing Smart roads that are aesthetically evolved and designed to ensure user convenience and experience without compromising their safety. Council has approved the two projects for resurfacing of roads.

The condition of some avenue roads has deteriorated and completed five year period, and it has been decided that strengthening and resurfacing of these avenue roads has to be done with the cold milling process for improving the quality of avenue roads and maintaining the existing level of road.

Details of these roads are as under:-1. Tilak Marg, 2. KG Marg, 3. Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, 4. Pandara Road, 5. Tolstoy Marg, 6.Hailey Road, 7. Tansen Marg,8 Babar Road. The total cost of the project is ₹7,25,80,900

3. 120 TYPE-II FLATS FOR EMPLOYEES AT SECTOR-VII, PUSHP VIHAR, SAKET, NEW DELHI required the Sewage Treatment Plant with the capacity of 100 KLD (MBBR based). For proper commissioning of STP various mechanical and filter parts are needed. This STP is based on MBBR technology.

Council has approved the detailed estimate amounting to ₹50,79,900/- with 5 per cent contingencies for supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of all mechanical & filter parts of Sewage Treatment Plant for the capacity 100 KLD (MBBR Based) with two years running and maintenance cost. AZAADI KA AMRIT

MAHOTSAV NDMC has organised 27 events in a series. It has also

planned 12 events to be organised: 1. AKAM Logo is routinely displayed on the NDMC website in NDMC communications & social media posts and will continue, 2. A Sculpture Camp to carve out 12 black stone sculptures in association with Sahitya Kala Parishad in February/March, 3. Art exhibition in Janpath subway in March/April, 4. Patriotic programmes like band display of Armed Forces at Central Park, 5. Programmes on Shahidi Diwas in March 6. A large size logo of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to be installed at various markets/prominent buildings in February 7. Wall Paintings in NDMC Area depicting messages on the theme of AKAM, 8. Programme on Ambedkar Jayanti in April, 2022, 9. Regular programme on AKAM by schools (Debate, drawing on the theme of AKAM); Till August 15 10. Yoga Day in June 11. Regular Swachhta drive in NDMC under the true spirit of AKAM 12. Musical concerts on freedom struggle in Central Park-

### 'Super Randonneur' title for SRM AP student

SRM University-AP's Computer Science Engineering Student Koneru Saiprasad won the 'Super Randonneur' title for his outstanding talent in cycling. Saiprasad recently set a new record for the longest distance cycling organized by Adaxi Club India with its headquarters in Guntur, shortly after reaching the target.

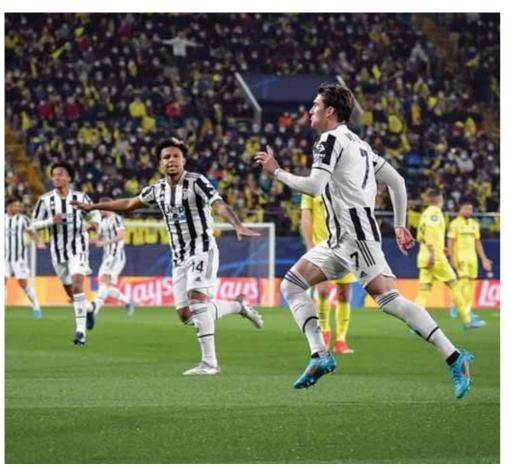
Saiprasad elaborated his quest with a beaming note, November 6, we cycled from Vijayawada to Nallajerla for 13 hours and then back to Vijayawada (200 km). Similarly, on November 27, he cycled from Vijayawada to Suryapeta on the Hyderabad route for 20 hours and then back to Vijayawada (300 km). He cycled



from Vijayawada to Nakrekal for 27 hours on December 18 and back to Vijayawada (400 km). A week ago, he cycled from Guntur to Ramoji Film City and back to Guntur (600 km) in 40 hours, setting a record."

Saiprasad won the 'Super Randonneur' title reserved for those who complete these four events. Saiprasad informed that he has loved cycling since he was a child and focused on long-distance cycling during lockdowns. He dedicated his achievement to his parents and university professors for their support and encouragement in all possible ways.

# Villarreal hold Juve in 1st leg



**AP** VILLARREAL

usan Vlahovic lived up to the hype by scoring 31 seconds into his Champions League debut on Tuesday but Juventus have work to do to make the last 16 after being held to a 1-1 draw by Villarreal in the

Vlahovic found the corner with just his second touch of the

game at La Ceramica but a sensational start for Juve and the Serb's Champions League career

was not enough for victory.
Instead, Villarreal's Dani Parejo steered in a deserved equaliser midway through the second half to leave a compelling contest in the balance ahead the return leg in Turin.

At 22 years and 25 days old, Vlahovic is the second youngest

player to score on their Champions League debut for Juventus after Alessandro Del

Piero made his mark aged 20.

Vlahovic was signed for an initial 70 million euros from Fiorentina in January and to huge excitement, with Juve toasting the arrival of one of the world's most coveted young talents.

Juventus coach Max Allegri had tried to reduce expectations club and country. Juventus,

er would have to adapt psychologically and technically to the intensity of the Champions League but Vlahovic needed less than a minute to find his feet.

It was his second goal in five appearances for Juve after he scored 12 minutes into his debut against Verona earlier this month, following a blistering 25 goals in 31 games for Fiorentina.

Juventus are realistically Italy's last hope of a representative in the quarter-finals after Inter Milan were beaten 2-0 at the San Siro by Liverpool on Wednesday.

Juventus will be favourites to finish the job at home next month but a well-organised and disciplined Villarreal, who won the Europa League last season, showed enough to suggest an upset is far from impossible.

McKennie could be out for 8-

Juventus and United States international midfielder Weston McKennie fractured the second and third metatarsals in his left foot during Tuesday's Champions

League match against Villarreal. The club initially expects him to miss 8-12 weeks, Tenorio adds.

The 23-year-old needed assistance to leave the pitch after a tackle from Pervis Estupinan, and McKennie was substituted in the 81st minute of the eventual 1-1 draw. He limped off with the help of the medical staff, unable to put any weight on his left foot, which got caught under the knee of a sliding Estupinan on the play.
McKennie had been among

Juventus' brightest players in the match until that point.

The injury comes at an inopportune time for both McKennie's

### KEY STATS

Dusan Vlahovic (22 years, 25 days) is the second youngest ✓ player to score on their Champions League debut for Juventus after Alessandro Del Piero (20 years 308 days).

Chelsea's 37-year-old centre-back Thiago Silva ✓ won possession 12 times tonight against Lille, the most he's ever done so in a Champions League match, with tonight his 94th appearance in the competition.

Édouard Mendy has kept a clean sheet in 14 of his 18 starts in the UEFA Champions League (78%) - the highest clean sheet ratio of any goalkeeper with 5+ starts in the competition's history.

Chelsea are the first English team in the history of the European Cup/Champions League to win five consecutive home matches without conceding a goal.

Chelsea have scored more goals via corners in the UEFA Champions League this season than any other side (4).

already without several key squad members due to a variety of ailments, are still competing on three fronts and are in an intense battle to finish top four in Serie A.
The US men's national team,

meanwhile, will resume World Cup qualifying on March 24. The Americans sit second in the "Octagonal" going into their final three matches - the top three teams automatically clinch berths in Qatar for this year's World Cup.



### Holders Chelsea beat Lille

helsea showed they can thrive with-∠out Romelu Lukaku as Kai Havertz scored after replacing the axed Belgium striker for the 2-0 Champions League last-16, first-leg win against Lille on Tuesday.

Thomas Tuchel's side took control of the tie thanks to Havertz's first-half header and Christian Pulisic's clinical finish after the break at Stamford

The holders will expect to complete their progress to the quarter-finals when they travel to France for the second leg on March 16.

But Chelsea's sixth successive win

in all competitions was more a referendum on their Lukaku conundrum than an indication of their chances of retaining the trophy.

Lukaku has scored just 10 goals since a club record £97 million (\$131 million) move from Inter Milan last year that was expected to launch a period of sustained dominance for Chelsea.

He touched the ball just seven times in Saturday's 1-0 win at Crystal Palace, the lowest total by a Premier League player since 2003-04.

Despite being infuriated in December by Lukaku's public questioning of the way he was being used, Tuchel had appeared to back him on Monday, insisting his problems were no laughing matter.

Asked about his decision to drop Lukaku, Tuchel said: "He looked a little exhausted and you have to consider that he's played a lot."

But, tellingly, Chelsea were more potent in Lukaku's absence and it remains to be seen if Tuchel will trust his beleaguered star in the League Cup final against Liverpool on Sunday.

At least Tuchel knows Chelsea have the ammunition to damage opponents while their supposed leading man

### Rangers look to finish job against Dortmund

**AP** ■ GLASGOW

 $B_{ ext{tie}}^{ ext{arcelona's Europa League}}$ poised heading into the return in Italy on Thursday as Rangers look to finish the job against Borussia Dortmund following their stunning 4-2 win in the first leg last week.

Barca needed a Ferran Torres penalty to draw at home to Napoli in the first leg of their knockout round play-off tie after Piotr Zielinski put the Serie A side in front at the Camp Nou.

However, with the away goals rule having been dispensed with this season by UEFA, the heavyweight tie remains very much in the balance going to the Stadio Diego

They won 4-1 at Valencia in La Liga at the weekend with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scoring a hat-trick, while Napoli are third in Serie A after drawing 1-1 with Cagliari on



Scottish champions Rangers are hoping to secure a spot in the last 16 as they welcome Dortmund to Ibrox following their stunning 4-2 win

It would go down as one of

the best results in their history in Europe if they could see off the Bundesliga giants, but the outcome of the tie could hinge on whether Erling

Haaland plays any part. Barcelona are one of four Spanish teams aiming to advance to the last 16, with Real Sociedad hosting RB Leipzig and Real Betis leading 3-2 against Zenit Saint Petersburg after the first leg in

Sevilla, the record six-time winners of the second-tier European competition and who will host this season's final, lead 3-1 as they go to Dinamo Zagreb.

### **Zverev thrown out of Acapulco** tourney after tantrum

**AP** ■ ACAPULCO

German Olympic tennis Champion Alexander Zverev has been expelled from the Mexican Open in Acapulco after smashing his racket on the umpire's chair several times and directing a foul-mouthed rant at the official, the ATP announced on Wednesday.

"Due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the conclusion of his doubles match on Tuesday night, Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the tournament in Acapulco," the governing body for men's tennis tweeted.

three in the world - lost his cool when he and doubles partner Marcelo Melo of Brazil were beaten 6-2, 4-6, 10-6 by Britain's Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliövaara of Finland. The 24-year-old defending



three times just below umpire Alessandro Germani's feet before taking his seat and then rising again to verbally

abuse the official and smash the chair one last time.

He had apparently been irked by a line call during the

### All England Open draw: Sindhu in same quarter as Yamaguchi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal were pitted in the same quarter as reigning women's singles world champion Akane Yamaguchi as the draws for the All England Championships 2022 were published on Tuesday.

The tournament will be held from 16 to 20 March in Birmingham.

Sindhu was drawn against a tricky opponent in world No 17 Wang Zhi Yi for the first round, while Nehwal will face world No 10 Pornpawee Chochuwong in her opener in what is set to be a massive challenge for the former world No 1 against a Thai shuttler who has been enjoying great results in recent times contrary to the Indian.

For Sindhu, even before a potential quarterfinal against a familiar foe in Yamaguchi (who she defeated at the last All England), she will need to overcome either Sayaka Takahashi / Supanida Katethong in the second round, two left-handers who could trouble the two-time Olympic medallist.

The men's singles draw also threw up some fascinating early matchups. World No 3 Anders Antonsen and world No 9 and world champion Loh Kean Yew are set for a mouthwatering first round clash in a repeat of the clash in Huelva last year that prompted the Dane to call the Singaporean



that match will face the winner of an all-Indian opener between Lakshya Sen and Sourabh Verma. Either way, it promises to be a tough early test for Sen, the worlds bronze

Srikanth Kidambi, meanwhile, was drawn in the same quarter as World No 1 Viktor Axelsen, who will face 2019 Basel worlds bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth in the opener. Axelsen could face Sameer Verma in the second round, while Srikanth takes on the winner of Anthony Sinisuka Ginting and Parupalli Kashyap.

In men's doubles, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will face Scotland's Alexander Dunn and Adam Hall in the first round. The Indian duo could face the world No 1 Kevin Sukamuljo

and Marcus Gideon in the quarterfinals. We could have an all-Indian second round clash if Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishunvardhan Goud Panjala

win their opening round.

Dhruv Kapila and MR
Arjun, the third Indian men's doubles pair competing, were drawn against the world No 2 pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in the first round.

In women's doubles, India's Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face Japan's Kie Nakanishi and Rin Iwanaga in the first round. India's mixed doubles pair

of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto is also set to face a stern test in the opening round. They were drawn against the Indonesian world No 5 pair of Praveen Jordan and Melati Oktavianti.

### Danish player Rune pulls out of Davis Cup tie

PNS NEW DELHI

Hosts India have been handed a huge advantage going into their Davis Cup World Group Playoff I tie against Denmark next week, as the World No 90 and the visiting side's top-ranked player, Holger Rune, has confirmed his unavailability for the two-day rubber on the grass courts of the Delhi Gymkhana Club (DGC) here.

Rune, the winner of the 2019 French Open boys' singles title, was expected to spearhead the Danish challenge against India - no other player from Denmark is ranked inside the Top-200 of the ATP world rankings. The presence of the ITF Junior champion (2019) would have spiced up the proceedings at the Davis Cup, with some exciting contest expected between India's singles players Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Yuki Bhambri. In the absence of Rune, who holds the distinction of being the second youngest male player after Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz to have featured in the Top-100, the Danish campaign will be led by seasoned doubles player.

### Nadal wins Acapulco opener

**AP** ■ ACAPULCO

Rafael Nadal made a tri-umphant return to the ATP Tour on Tuesday, winning his first tournament match since capturing the Australian Open title to reach the second round of the Mexican Open.

The 35-year-old Spanish left-hander defeated US lucky loser Dennis Kudla 6-3, 6-2 to book a date with another American who advanced in similar fashion, Nadal practice partner Stefan Kozlov, in the

Russian top seed Daniil Medvedev, the reigning US



rallied to beat in five sets in the Australian Open final,

Open champion whom Nadal began his Acapulco run with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over

## Manika eyes success at CWG & Asiad

PTI NEW DELHI

 $B^{
m ack}$  in the top-50 of world rankings after three years, star table tennis player Manika Batra wants to break the top-30 barrier in the near future and she knows she will have to work harder than ever to get there. It is an important year for the 26-year-old who will defend her Commonwealth Games singles crown in Birmingham before travelling to Hangzhou to create more history at the Asian Games after winning a mixed doubles Gold with Sharath Kamal in Jakarta in 2018. The 2018 Commonwealth

Manika who exceeded all

Games in Gold Coast was a gold in singles and team. career defining moment for She beat London Olympics

Bronze medallist Feng Tianwei

expectations by winning as many as four medals, including her name in history books.

twice in the competition to etch

Four years later, she feels she is a much improved play-

ly, especially in my move-ments, but this is not the end and need to keep working harder. Since I am tall, I had to work a lot on my strength and agility support my back and knees. "This year, we have CWG

"A lot changed for me after

CWG. I have improved fitness

wise and game wise significant-

and Asian Games. In my mind it is there I have to win but focus is on training," said the

world number 49.

Ahead of the WTT

Contender in Muscat next
month, Manika recently trained with mixed doubles partner G Sathiyan in Chennai. The duo is aiming to win an Olympic medal in Paris in

A medal could not come in Tokyo Games last year but back with Sathiyan, Manika feels it is a possibility. The two won a WTT event soon after reuniting for their Olympic ambitions. "Sathiyan and I make a

good pair. We have improved our rankings. We worked a lot on combination and understanding (recently). Techniques, we can improve even while training on our own. If we are doing well in singles, we can also support our doubles partner better," she said. "2024 Paris is really important for me. I want to win a medal or reach at least the quarterfinals. For that, I need to work really hard and I am doing that."

# WT20 audition continues with SL series

ith the number of claimants increasing heading into T20 World Cup, there will be no let-up in India's willingness to experiment or their intensity in the three-match T20 series against Sri Lanka, beginning here on Thursday.

Coming off a 3-0 whitewash of the West Indies, the in-form Indians will look to do an encore against the visiting Sri Lankans, and the Rohit Sharma-led squad has a realistic chance of achieving that.

But the endeavour to complete another clean sweep will not mean a climb-down from their keenness to give enough game time to as many players as possible in the leadup to the World Cup, which will be held in Australia in October-

The absence of the team's established players, such as Virat Kohli and Rishbah Pant as well as KL Rahul, in the upcoming three T20 Internationals will definitely translate into more opportunities for the likes of Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson.

Kohli not there means Shreyas Iyer will get a chance to settle down, play more overs, score some useful runs and stake a claim for one of the middle-order slots, though the for-

mer India captain will come back to claim his number three spot heading into the World Cup.

The duo of Gaikwad and Iyer failed in the third T20Is against the West Indies and they would hope that they impress against Sri Lanka.

One of the highlights over the last week was Venkatesh Iyer's ability to finish off matches and if he is able to continue in the same vein against the islanders, while managing to improve his bowling, the Indian team management will have a world-class all-rounder at its disposal going into the showpiece

Now that Suryakumar Yadav has been ruled out of the series alongside Deepak Chahar due to injuries, Venkatesh will assume added responsibility when it comes to batting in the back 10.

Sanju Samson has also been drafted into the squad and it would be interesting to see whether the management gives him a go in the

Dravid had said that he and Rohit are pretty clear about the team for the marquee tournament in Australia in less than eight months' "I think we have got a fair idea

between Rohit and myself and the selectors and the management," Dravid had said after the 3-0 clean sweep over the West Indies.

'Î don't think there's a set formula to it. But we're pretty clear about the balance and the combi-nation (for the T20 World Cup). We are just structuring a little bit of the team around it and also balancing individual workloads as well.

"We have got a pretty fair idea of the kind of skills we're looking for in Australia, with the kind of guys who are in running. Not everything is set in stone but we want to give everyone a fair chance to stake their claim for those spots," Dravid had

As far as Sri Lanka are concerned, the side suffered a 1-4 defeat at the hands of Australia and was let down by batting time and

Skipper Dasun Shanaka would hope that their batting gets its act together against India.

The bowling will need to recover fast as star leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga has been ruled out of the series after failing to recover from

Suryakumar ruled out of Sri Lanka T20Is

n-form India batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Wednesday ruled out of the three-match T20 International series against Sri Lanka owing to a hairline fracture on his hand. The series starts here on Thursday and Yadav's injury was confirmed to PTI by a BCCI source before the Board issued an official statement.

Yadav, who was adjudged Player of the Series in the preceding T20Is against the West Indies, is the second Indian player to be forced out of the Sri Lanka series after pacer Deepak Chahar.

Chahar was ruled out of the games in Lucknow and Dharamsala ter picking up a hamstring injury. Deepak sustained a right quadriceps injury during bowling

his COVID-19 infection.

Teams

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Jasprit Bumrah (vice-captain), Avesh

while Suryakumar suffered a hairline fracture during a fielding attempt in the third and final T20I against the West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in the statement.

"They will now head to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for further management

of their injuries," he added. Sri Lanka all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga will miss the upcoming T20I series against India after testing positive for COVID-19.

Wanindu Hasaranga, who was in isolation after contracting COVID-19, has once again, returned a positive result when a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) was conducted on the player yesterday (February 22). A PCR test too confirmed the result," SLC said in an official statement.

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Captain), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Charith Asalanka (Vice-Captain), Dinesh Chandimal, Danushka Gunathilaka, Kamil Mishara, Janith Liyanage, Chamika Karunaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Lahiru Kumara, Binura Fernando, Shiran Fernando, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Praveen Jayawickrama, Ashian Daniel.

Delhi Capitals

appointment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

confirm Agarkar's

 $F^{ormer\ India\ pacer\ Ajit\ Agarkar}_{was\ on\ Wednesday\ officialy}$ 

appointed as the assistant coach of

Agarkar will join the team after his

completing his commentating

duties for India's home series

against Sri Lanka beginning on

Delhi Capitals squad for this sea-

"I am very excited to be part of

As reported by PTI on Tuesday,

IPL franchise Delhi Capitals.

### Every Test match is important because of the WTC points: Mayank Agarwal

fter a splendid performance with the bat Mayank Agarwal was named in the 18-man squad for the upcoming Test series against Sri

Speaking ahead of the first Test, which begins from March 4 at the Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium, Mohali, Mayank Agarwal highlighted the importance of the series and explained why the team's mentality is to win every Test match.

"I am very excited to be part of the squad and part of the Indian Test team. I am really looking forward to contributing to the team's success," Mayank said. "Every Test series is of utmost importance

because of the World Test Championship. Each Test carries points. The collective thinking of our team is to pick up a win in every match that we play and try to get the maximum points we can from all the Test matches," the 31-year-

enjoys opening the batting, but also added that he is open to bat lower down the order, if and when the team requires him to do so. "The role of an opener is key in Test cricket because, in a fiveday game, it is the openers who set up the day for the batters to follow. It's something that I have done all my life. I really enjoy doing that. With that being said, I don't just always want to open the batting. I am also comfortable batting at any

Sri Lanka, over the past couple of decades, have garnered a reputation of possessing a solid spin-bowling attack, especially in the longest

position the team wants

me to bat, at any given sit-

uation," Mayank said.

### New captain Rohit happy to groom India's future leaders

India vs Sri Lanka

STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

impressed in his maiden T20I series

and he will look to march ahead

has come back into the team to bol-

ster the bowling attack and, along

with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and

Mohammed Siraj, will comprise a

dence from his fine showing against the West Indies, especially in the

Bhuvneshwar will take confi-

formidable pace bowling unit.

death overs.

with the same momentum.

Spinner Ravi Bishnoi also

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah

 $R^{
m ohit}$  Sharma on Wednesday said he was happy to help train possible successors following his recent appointment as India's cricket captain across all formats in place of Virat Kohli. The star batsman was named

Test captain on Saturday -- he was already white-ball skipper -- but since he will turn 35 in April pundits do not expect his tenure to be a long one. India's cricket board has iden-

tified three possible candidates all in their 20s to follow him eventually -- Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant.

"I won't have that much of a role of telling them each and everything, obviously they are all mature cricketers but someone



needs to be around them to help and guide them in difficult situations and (I am) more than happy to do that," Rohit told his first press conference after taking over the Test job. "We were groomed by

someone else, so it's a natural process. If you talk of Bumrah, KL, Pant, they have a big role to play in India's success at the same time they are looked upon as leaders

son," Agarkar said, on the development in a team statement. He is looking forward to work

with captain Rishabh Pant and head coach Ricky Ponting.
"I have been lucky enough to be

a player and to be returning in a different capacity. It's obviously very exciting. We have a young and terrific squad

led by one of the most talented players in the world - Rishabh Pant. "And the coach Ricky Ponting has been a legend of the game. Looking forward to working with them, can't wait to get started and

> special memo-The 44year-old, with 288 ODI and

wickets to his name, has repre-Kolkata

Knight Riders and Delhi Daredevils in the IPL. He joins the Delhi Capitals coaching staff of Ponting, Pravin Amre (Assistant Coach)

# India look to avoid whitewash

India will be desperate to gain Lsome momentum heading into the World Cup but for that, their bowlers will have to raise their game as they seek to stop New Zealand from completing a 5-0 whitewash in

PTI ■ QUEENSTOWN

Having lost all matches played here so far, including the lone T20I, the Mithali Raj-led side is finding it difficult to stem the rot and faces the ignominy of a one-sided series defeat days ahead of the World Cup.

The series defeat is India's fourth in the last one year, having lost to South Africa, England and Australia earlier.

While the batters did raise their game in the second and third ODIs with a much-improved performance, the bowling unit has let the team down throughout the series, something that Mithali admitted was a concern heading into the World Cup.

"Definitely have been trying a the visitors left out the vice-captain

few combinations with the seam and spin attack. Bowling attack is a concern going into the World Cup, Mithali said.

tions and to the open ground and the breeze. We have not been very consistent in our bowling spells." The Indian team hasn't performed as a cohesive unit. While the bowlers failed to defend 270 plus

targets in two games, the batters were unable to chase 276 and 192 in 20 overs in the fourth ODI. The fielding has also been sub-standard. With as many as three players in extended Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) for the first half

of the tour, India continued to experiment with their line up. With pressure building up on Harmanpreet Kaur, who has managed just 33 runs in the three ODIs and was also expensive with the ball.



from the playing XI in the fourth

Shafali Verma is also yet to fire. The youngster has only struck one fifty in the series and was out on nought in the last game.

The spin department, save Deepti Sharma, has been inconsistent while the pace attack has lacked teeth to trouble the opposition batters. Overall, the Indian bowlers have struggled to adapt to the con-

The positives for India include teenage wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh's good form. The 18-year-old scored second and fourth ODI and is India's second highest run-getter in the tournament behind Mithali.

With Richa and the reliable Taniya Bhatia, India have two solid wicketkeeping options heading into the World Cup.

In the absence of Smriti Mandhana, who missed the one-off T20 and three ODIs because of extended MIQ, Sabbhineni Meghana performed well at the top.

Deepti is the series' leading wicket-taker with eight scalps, while veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami (5), who has played only two games, also figures in the top four.

With the World Cup around the corner and just two warm-up matches against South Africa and

the West Indies after the game on Thursday, India will badly need some momentum heading into the marquee event. New Zealand, on the

other hand, will be delighted with how the series Their top batters have been impres-Amelia Kerr

Bates hitting a hundred each while m Satterthwaite has scored two fifties.

and Suzie

The lowerorder has also shown it can finish games, snatching victory from the jaws of

defeat in the third ODI.



## Kiwis eye historic victory in 2nd SA Test



**AP** CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand go into the second Test against South Africa on Friday on the cusp of clinching the series and reclaiming the mantle of number one in the world.

A draw in Christchurch would give New Zealand a historic first series win against South Africa in 17 attempts, while victory would not only complete a 2-0 series sweep but it would see them dislodge Australia at the top of the world rankings.

The notorious bowl-first green wicket at Hagley Oval has been a happy hunting ground for New Zealand with eight wins from 10

But Kyle Jamieson -- who has taken 24 wickets in four Tests at the ground -- said winning the toss was

t necessarily an advantage. Zealand's colossal innings-and-"When we've batted first we've been able to see through tough 276-run victory, said familiarity

periods and come outside the other side, so while it's a bit important I don't think it necessarily

determines the outcome," he said. New Zealand won the toss in the first Test and rolled South

Africa for 95 and 111, while scoring 482 in their one turn at bat.

While they downplayed the importance of the toss, Henry Nicholls, who scored 105 in New

"From a batting point of view, we know it's tough but when you have that experience that's the perk of having home advantage," he

with the ground was important.

New Zealand have maintained the same squad for the second Test which meant no room for Trent Boult, who missed the first Test for the birth of his third child, and provided another opportunity for

Henry produced the third-best bowling figures in New Zealand Test history with seven for 23 in the first innings, took two more in the second innings and hit an unbeaten 58 with the bat.

Rather than hang their heads after the first Test, South Africa have wound back the clock to their New Year series against India where they lost the first Test and bounced back to win the remain-

"It's about reminding the guys that as a team, we've overcome a lot," said Temba Bayuma

'We know how it is to come back, how it is to come from behind when our backs are against the wall. We do have what it takes from a character perspective to do what we need to do.

### Afif, Mehidy help B'desh sink Afghanistan



**AP** ■ CHITTAGONG

A fif Hossain and Mehidy Hasan shared a record 174-run seventh-wicket stand as Bangladesh recovered from a top-order collapse to beat Afghanistan by four wickets in the first one-day international of a three-

match series in Chittagong on Wednesday.

Afif hit an unbeaten 93 off 115 balls while Mehidy added 81 not out, helping Bangladesh reach 219-6 in 48.5 overs, after Afghanistan left-arm pace bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi's openingspell burst reduced the hosts to 18-4 inside five overs. Spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman and

Rashid Khan took one wicket apiece to leave Bangladesh struggling at 45-6 before Afif and Mehidy turned the tide. Earlier Mustafizur Rahman took

3-35 with Shoriful Islam (2-38), Shakib Al Hasan (2-50) and Taskin Ahmed (2-55) all making an impact as Bangladesh bowled out Afghanistan for 215 runs. Despite the modest target,

Bangladesh were in all sorts of trouble when Farooqi dismissed openers Tamim Iqbal (eight) and Liton Das (one) in the third over before nabbing Mushfiqur Rahim (three) and debutant Yasir Ali (zero) in the next. Things turned worse for Bangladesh after Shakib Al Hasan

Rashid dismissed Mahmudullah for eight to leave Bangladesh in a precarious situation. But Afif, who hit 11 fours and a six in his career-best knock, and Mehidy ensured there was no further

dragged onto his stumps off Mujeeb

Ur Rahman to depart for 10 and

Mehidy struck nine fours in his third ODI fifty, also his personal best

innings, which came off 120 balls. Their partnership surpassed Imrul

Kayes and Mohammad Saifuddin's 127 seventh-wicket record for Bangladesh, set against Zimbabwe in